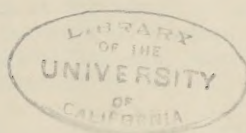


Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2008 with funding from
Microsoft Corporation

131
W
GIFT
AUG 10 1915

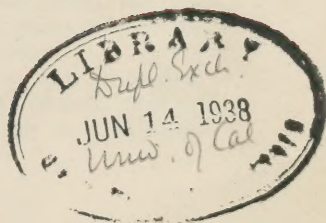
WAR- CHRONICLE

WAR JOURNAL
SOLDIERS' LETTERS
PICTURES OF THE WAR



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
TO THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

MAY 1915



7471
W

Printed and published by M. Berg.

The Imperial Chancellor's Official Statement of the Austrian Offer to Italy.

Berlin, 18th May 1915.

In the Reichstag to-day Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the Imperial German Chancellor, made the following statement:

Gentlemen,

You are aware that relations between Italy and Austria-Hungary have been much strained within the last few months. From yesterday's speech, which the Hungarian Prime Minister, Graf Tisza, made, you will have gathered that the Vienna Cabinet, in a sincere effort to ensure an enduring friendship between the Dual Monarchy and Italy, and to take into account the lasting great vital interests of both Empires, had resolved on far-reaching concessions of a territorial nature to Italy. I consider it proper to indicate these concessions to you. They were:

1. The part of Tirol, inhabited by Italians to be ceded to Italy.
2. Likewise the western bank of the Isonzo in so far as the population is purely Italian, and the town of Gradisca.
3. Trieste to be made an Imperial free city, receiving an Administration, ensuring an Italian character to the city, and to have an Italian University.
4. The recognition of Italian sovereignty over Valona and the sphere of interests belonging thereto.
5. Austria-Hungary declares her political disinterestedness regarding Albania.
6. The national interests of Italian nationals in Austria-Hungary to be particularly respected.
7. Austria-Hungary grants an amnesty for political or military criminals, who are natives of the ceded territories.
8. The further wishes of Italy regarding general questions to be assured of every consideration.
9. Austria-Hungary, after the conclusion of the agreement, to give a solemn declaration concerning the concessions.
10. Mixed committees for the regulation of details of the concessions to be appointed.
11. After the conclusion of the agreement, Austro-Hungarian soldiers, natives of the occupied territories, shall not further participate in the war. (Hear, hear!)

I can add, that Germany, in order further to strengthen the understanding between both her Allies, undertook, with the full agreement of the Vienna Cabinet, to give a full guarantee for the loyal fulfillment of these offers to the Roman Cabinet.

Germany and Austria-Hungary herewith formed a resolution, which, if it should lead to results, would, I firmly believe, find an overwhelming majority in the three nations. With its Parliament

the Italian people will now decide whether it will reach the fulfilment of all national aspirations in the widest extent in a peaceful manner, or whether it will plunge the country into war, and tomorrow draw the sword against its Allies of yesterday and to-day. I will not give up the hope entirely, that the scale of peace will be heavier than the scale of war.

But whatsoever the decision of Italy will be, we, together with Austria-Hungary have done all within the bounds of possibility to support the Alliance, which was firmly rooted among the German people and brought profit and good to the three Empires. If the Alliance is torn by one of the three partners, we shall know, together with the other partners, how to meet the new dangers with dauntless and confident courage. (Violent and lively applause and general clapping. The Imperial Chancellor bowed several times and the applause and clapping continued.)

Italy's Breach of Faith Denounced by the German Imperial Chancellor.

Berlin, 28th May 1915.

In the Reichstag to-day on the opening of the Session, the Imperial Chancellor dealt with the entry of Italy into the war. He said:

Gentlemen, when I addressed you eight days ago, there was still a gleam of hope that Italy's participation in the war would be avoided. This hope has not been fulfilled. German feeling can hardly bring itself to believe in the possibility of such a turn. Italy has now inscribed in the book of the world's history in letters of blood, which will never fade, her violation of faith.

I believe Machiavelli once said that a war which is necessary, is also just. From this sober, practical political standpoint, which leaves out of account all moral consideration, has this war been necessary? Is it not indeed directly mad? (Lively cries: Quite right!) Nobody threatened Italy, neither Austria-Hungary, nor Germany. Whether the Triple Entente was content with blandishments alone, history will show later. Without shedding a drop of blood, or endangering the life of a single Italian, Italy could have secured the long list of concessions, which I recently read to the House—territory in the Tirol and on the Isonzo as far as the Italian speech is spoken, satisfaction of the national aspirations in Trieste, a free hand in Albania and the important port of Valona. Why have Signor Salandra and Signor Sonnino not taken that? Do they perhaps wish to conquer the German Tirol? Hands off! (Prolonged cheers.) Or do they wish to provoke friction with Germany, with the country, which has always given Italy such assistance in past

years (Stormy applause) and with which its interests do not come in contact. We left Rome in no doubt that an Italian attack on Austro-Hungarian troops would also strike the German troops. (Lively cheers.) Why did Rome refuse so light-heartedly the proposals of Vienna? The Italian Manifesto of War, which conceals an uneasy conscience behind vain phrases does not give us any explanation. They were too shy perhaps, to say openly what was spread about as a pretext by the Press and by gossip in the lobbies of the Chamber—namely, that Austria's offer came too late and could not be trusted.

What are the facts? Italian Statesmen have no right to measure the trustworthiness of other Nations in the same proportion as they measured their own loyalty to a treaty.

Germany, by her word, guaranteed that the concessions would be carried through. There was no occasion for distrust. Why too late? On May 4th, the Trentino was the same territory as it was in February, and the whole series of concessions had been added to the Trentino, of which nobody had thought in the winter. It was perhaps too late, for this reason, that while the Triple Alliance, the existence of which the King and the Government had expressly acknowledged after the outbreak of war, was still alive, Signor Sonnino had long before become so deeply engaged with the Triple Entente that he could not disentangle himself.

There were indications of fluctuations in the Roman Cabinet as far back as December. To have two irons in the fire is always useful and Italy had shown her predilection for extra dances beforehand. (Cheers and laughter.) But this is no ball room—this is a bloody battlefield, upon which Germany and Austria-Hungary are fighting for their lives against a world of enemies. The Statesmen of Rome have played against their own people the same game as they played against us. It is true, that the Italian speaking territory on the northern frontier has always been the dream and the desire of every Italian, but the great majority of the Italian people, as well as the majority of Parliament, did not want to hear of war. According to the observation of the best judge of the situation in Italy, in the first days of May, four-fifths of the Senate and two-thirds of the Chamber were against war, and in that majority were the most responsible and important Statesmen. But common sense had no say. The mob alone ruled. Under the kindly disposed toleration and with the assistance of the leading Statesmen of a Cabinet, fed with the gold of the Triple Entente, the mob under the guidance of unscrupulous war instigators, was roused to frenzy of blood, which threatened the King with revolution and all moderate men with murder, if they did not join in the war delirium.

The Italian people were intentionally kept in the dark with regard to the course of the Austrian negotiations and the extent of the Austrian concessions, and so it came about that after the resignation of the Salandra Cabinet nobody could be found, who

had the courage to undertake the formation of a new Cabinet, and that in the decisive debate no member of the Constitutional party in the Senate or Chamber even attempted to estimate the value of the far reaching Austrian concessions. In the frenzy of war, honest politicians grew dumb, but when, as the result of military events, as we hope and desire, the Italian people become sober again, it will recognize how frivolously it was instigated to take part in this world-war. (Lively applause.)

We did everything possible to avoid the alienation of Italy from the Dreibund. The ungrateful part fell to us of requiring from our loyal ally, Austria, with whose armies our troops share daily wounds, death and victory, the purchase of the loyalty of the third party to the Alliance by the cession of old inherited territory. That Austria-Hungary went to the uttermost limit, is well-known. Prince Bülow, who again entered in the active service of the Empire, tried by every means with his diplomatic ability, his thorough knowledge of the situation in Italy and of Italian personages to come to an understanding. (Lively applause.) Although this work has been in vain, the entire people are grateful to him. (Long and lively applause.)

Gentlemen, we shall also endure this storm. From month to month we grow more intimate with our Ally. From the Pilica to the Bukowina, we tenaciously withstood with our Austro-Hungarian comrades for months the gigantic superiority of the enemy. Then we victoriously advanced. So our new enemies will perish, through the spirit of loyalty, friendship and bravery as displayed by the Central Powers.

In this war, Turkey is celebrating a brilliant regeneration. The whole German people follow with enthusiasm the different phases of the obstinate and victorious resistance with which the loyal Turkish army and fleet repulse the attacks of their enemies with heavy blows. (Long and loud applause.)

Against the living wall of our warriors in the West, our enemies, up till now, have vainly stormed. If in some places fighting fluctuates, if here or there a trench or a village is lost or won, the great attempt of our adversaries to break through which they announced five months ago, did not succeed, and will not succeed. They will perish owing to the heroic bravery of our soldiers. (Lively applause.)

Up to now, our enemies have summoned in vain against us all the forces of the world and a gigantic coalition of brave soldiers. —we will not despise our enemies, as our adversaries like to do, — the plan of starving a nation of 70 Millions, inclusive of women and children. At the moment when the mob in English towns is dancing round the stake, at which the property of defenceless Germans is burning, the English Government dared to publish a document with the evidence of unnamed witnesses on the alleged cruelties in Belgium, which are of so monstrous a character that only mad brains could believe them. (Lively applause and cries of: Quite right!) While the English Press does not permit itself to be deprived of

news, the terror of the censorship reigns in Paris. No casualty lists appear and no German or Austro-Hungarian communiqués may be printed, while the severely wounded invalids are kept away from their relations and real fear of the truth appears to be the motive of the Government. Thus it comes about according to trustworthy observation, that there is no knowledge of the heavy defeats, which the Russians sustained even last year and the belief continues in the Russian steam-roller, advancing on Berlin, which is perishing from starvation and misery, and confidence exists in the great offensive in the West, which for months has not progressed.

If the Governments of hostile States believe that by the deception of the people and by unchaining a blind hatred, they can shift the blame for the crime of this war and postpone the day of awakening, we, relying on our good conscience, a just cause and victorious sword will not allow ourselves to be forced by a hair's breadth from the path which we have always recognized as right. (Lively applause.)

Amid this confusion of minds on the other side, the German people goes on its own way, calm and sure. Not in hatred do we wage this war, but in anger—in holy anger—. (Lively applause.) The greater the danger we have to confront, surrounded on all sides by enemies, the more deeply does the love of home grip our hearts, the more must we care for our children and grandchildren, and the more must we endure until we have conquered and have secured every possible guarantee and assurance that no enemy, alone or combined will dare again a trial of arms. The more wildly the storm rages round us, the more firmly must we build our own house.

For this consciousness of united strength, unshaken courage and boundless devotion, which inspire the whole people, and for the loyal co-operation which you, gentlemen, from the first day have generously given to the Fatherland, I bring you as the representatives of the entire people the warm thanks of the Kaiser. (Cheers.) In the mutual confidence that we are all united, we will conquer, despite a world of enemies! (Long and stormy applause and clapping from all parts of the House.)

The German Government's Explanations as to the Italian Attitude in Departing from the Dreibund.

Berlin, 20th May 1915.

The "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" in an article referring to the Dreibund Contract, declares that under the terms of the treaty a *Casus foederis* was present for the three contracting Powers, if one or two of them were attacked without provocation and involved in a war, by two or three great Powers.

When after the Serajewo tragedy, Austria-Hungary was compelled to act against Servia in order to protect her vital interests,

Servia was supported by Russia. While Germany, at the Czar's request, was still engaged in seeking a peaceable solution, Russia mobilized her whole army thereby kindling the flame of the world conflagration; the provocation therefore came from Russia. Italy however considered that a *Casus fœderis* was not present, on the grounds that Austro-Hungary by an aggressive policy against Servia was the cause of Russia's intervention. Moreover Italy maintained that Austria-Hungary has violated article VII of the treaty, as she did not communicate to Italy her intention of sending an Ultimatum to Servia. This article binds Austria-Hungary and Italy to previous arrangements and mutual compensation for the case that one of the said powers should see itself compelled to change the *Status quo* in the Balkans by means of a temporary or permanent occupation. This would only have been correct if Austria-Hungary had aimed at territorial expansion in the Balkans, but the Austrian Government declared before the war at Petersburg and Rome that she had no such intentions.

Therefore, the Central Powers were right in not recognizing Italy's objections to fulfilling her duties as an Ally. Loyally making allowances, however, for Italy's difficult internal and external position, they preferred a one-sided interpretation of the treaty, and to satisfy themselves with a benevolent neutrality, to which Italy was at all events committed by the treaty.

The Austro-Hungarian Government also declared itself ready to grant compensations eventually, although the article VII only refers to compensations in the case of a territorial expansions in the Balkans.

After the death of the Marquis di San Giuliano it became more and more evident that strong influence was being brought to bear in Italy to get special advantages in exchange for neutrality. The Italian Government took armament preparations and with the equipment the demands of the Irredentists, Republicans, Free-Masons, and other Francophil elements increased. After a short time, the demands were not limited to the Trentino, but the acquisition of other ancient Austrian possessions on the southern frontier of the Dual Monarchy, as a reward, if Italy were to refrain from stabbing its Ally engaged in a bitter fight.

In the natural endeavour to keep Italy from participating in the war and place the Austro-Italian relations on a new and friendly footing, the German Government did all in its power to advance an arrangement between Austro-Hungary and her Italian Ally. Negotiations were slowly taken up and were rendered all the more difficult from the beginning, owing to the demands of the Italian Government, that the evacuated territory should at once be taken possession of by them. So as to disperse the suspicions, which prompted this demand, the German Government on 19th March 1915, undertook to guarantee the fulfilment of the arrangements, immediately on the cessation of hostilities in Europe. The Italian

Government did not agree to the first definite offer made by Austro-Hungary at the end of March 1915, which offered to cede that part of South-Tirol, in which the Italian language is spoken, but presented its demands on 11th April to the Austro-Hungarian Government, which are as follows:

The entire cedence of the Trentino according to the frontiers obtaining in 1811, i.e. including Bozen, which is situated at a considerable distance from the territory, in which the Italian language is spoken, a change of frontier on the Isonzo in favour of Italy including Görz, Gradisca, and Monfalcone, Triest to be made an Imperial Free City together with the Hinterland as far as the Isonzo, Capodistria, and Pirano. Evacuation of the Curzolari Isles, including Lissa, Lesina, Curzola, Lagosta, Brazza and Meleda. All these places were to be occupied at once and Nationals of these places serving in the army or navy, to be at once set at liberty. Furthermore, Italy demanded the recognition of Italian Sovereignty over Valona and Saseno and the spheres of interests belonging thereto, as well as the political disinterestedness of Austria-Hungary regarding Albania. Italy on the other hand offered a lump sum of 200 million Francs, which would relieve her of all responsibilities, but would undertake to preserve a benevolent neutrality for the entire duration of the war. She would waive claim to all further demands for compensation, as contained in article VII of the treaty for the duration of the war, and expected similar conduct to be shown by Austria-Hungary as regards the Italian occupation of the Dodecanes Isles.

Although these demands greatly exceeded the limit of that which Italy was justified in demanding for the satisfaction of her national aspirations, still the Imperial Austrian Government did not break off negotiations, but made untiring endeavours to come to some amicable arrangements with the Italian Government. The German Government did all in its power, to induce the Italian Government to modify its demands, the unconditional acceptance of which would have severely injured the justified interests and dignity of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

While these negotiations were still pending, the Italian Ambassador in Vienna quite unexpectedly made the statement to the Austro-Hungarian Government that owing to Austria-Hungary's action against Serbia in August 1914, Italy was compelled to a denunciation of her treaty. The Ambassador at the same time stated that he must recall all the offers hitherto made by his Government. This so-called denunciation of the treaty, which should have been valid until 1920 was based upon the events of the critical state of affairs in July 1914, and in contradiction not only to the friendly and benevolent statements, made by the King of Italy and the Italian Government in August 1914, but also the rights of compensation which had in the meantime been compiled by the present Italian Government, based on article VII of the treaty. It cannot accu-

ately be ascertained whether the competent members of the Italian Chamber followed the dictates of secret agreements that had been made with the enemies of its former Allies, or whether they gave way to public opinion, which owing to the incitements of the Press, paid by foreign money, grew more and more hostile against the Central Powers. The Italian Government was content with stating in Berlin that the above communication had been made to the Austro-Hungarian Government in Vienna on 4th May.

A last attempt to dissuade the former Ally from entering the enemy camp, was made on 10th May, by means of considerable concessions on the part of the Austro-Hungarian Government, the extent of which the German Imperial Chancellor publically stated in the Reichstag on 18th May.

That was the course of historical events. In face of these positive assertions, no "Green-Book" can mitigate the fact that the Italian Government in taking arms against her former Ally did so by a breach of fidelity and good faith, so as to acquire a territorial expansion, which had been offered the Italian Nation with all possible guaranties, voluntarily and without bloodshed.

Memorandum

**referring to the treatment of the German Consuls in Russia
and destruction of the German Embassy in Petersburg.**

Hitherto it was universally looked upon as a matter of course that the representatives of an enemy country, consular as well as diplomatic, were treated with the amount of consideration due to their positions and allowed to pass out of the countries, in which they happened to be stationed.

It was however reserved for the Russian Government to disregard all foregone principles by their action in retaining for months some of the Embassy Staff and Consular Officials as prisoners and subjecting them to a torturous treatment, unworthy of all humanity, which in many cases had lasting ill effects on their health.

Of those who escaped unmolested, exclusive of the Embassy Staff, who left Russia with the Ambassador, were the officials of the General Consulate in Petersburg in so far as they had joined the Embassy Staff, the Administrator of the General Consulate in Moscow, the Staff of the Consulate at Wladiwostok and the servants belonging to the General Consulate in Warsaw with one exception; last mentioned cannot be placed to the credit of the Government, which, as has been seen from a circular, which has fallen into our hands, gave orders to the authorities (luckily too late) to hinder the General Consul, Freiherr von Brück, from leaving Russia. Besides this, the Warsaw Consular Staff were in-

sulted and threatened by drunken officers in Wilna in a disgraceful manner.

All other consular officials that happened to be in Russia immediately after the Declaration of War, were arrested, their chambers and private dwellings searched, in many cases the documents being confiscated, while the gentlemen themselves were treated as common criminals, being deprived of all their personal belongings and money. They were photographed and measured for the criminal list as well as having impressions of their fingers taken, and frequently subjected to insulting examination, in many cases confined with the rabble and partly transported "by stages", which is considered especially degrading in Russia. The nourishment was of the worst description, sometimes even injurious to health. The months of solitary confinement had most pernicious effects in many cases, one of these unfortunate men having thereby lost his reason. Owing to the remarkably low standard of culture obtaining among the population, a prolonged stay in a Russian prison, superabounding with filth and vermin, in insupportable for those accustomed to live a cultured life. Many of these gentlemen are still covered with scars. The American writer Kennan's dreadful descriptions demonstrate the stages and prisons even to-day.

Our officials were not only subjected to this notorious treatment in the first excitable days after the Declaration of War, it was continued up to the end and cannot be attributed to excesses on the part of local authorities, but to the directions issued by the Government. As one of the gentlemen was told, a Governor expressed himself to the effect, that the Government measures were so severe, that it was impossible to carry them out.

As regards the fate of single officials, the Consul in Kowno. Freiherr von Lerchenfeld, and Vice-Consul Anders (Tiflis) have been kept in prison for the past 8 months, subjected to the most abominable treatment. Baron Lerchenfeld is confined in a narrow cell in the unhealthy Peter-Paul-fortress, obliged to wear convicts garb with a wooden board as sleeping accommodation, while the prison fare is uneatable. Herr Anders is in a convict prison in the vicinity of Tiflis, which is well-known as being specially unhealthy, and where only the worst cases are confined. The Clerk Fibich, who had remained in Warsaw, has been banished to a distant Cossak village in the Government of Orenburg, where he is the only non-Cossak.

While all negotiations for the exchange of these prisoners were fruitless, the other officials, who had languished in Russia 6—7 months, have been exchanged for Russians who had been retained here on our receiving the information that our countrymen had been held up, but who for the most part were at liberty and allowed to live at ease in Hotels. Any that were in custody, were decently and considerably treated, while our officials, even when after months of imprisonment set at liberty, just managed to exist

under the hardest privations in the most remote villages of dark Russia.

Altogether 26 persons were exchanged: The Consuls von Bülow, Häring, Schönstedt, Nolte, and Gaedecke, the Vice-Consuls Walther, Ehrh, Schmidt, Spies, Koenitzer, and Scheunert. The Consulate officials Carlson, Fischer, Sebald, Wucherpfenig, Bartsch, Burghardt, Forner, Herold, Wohlenberg, Pache, Pallat, Scholz, and Fräulein Meyer, and finally the Embassy employees Limberts and Przibila. Of the above, the secretary Herold spent 6 months, Consul Gaedecke $5\frac{1}{2}$, Consul Häring 5, Consul Nolte and the Vice-Consuls Walther and Ehrh more than 4, Consuls Schönstedt and Schmidt and the secretaries Carlson and Pache, as well as Fräulein Meyer, almost 4, Vice-Consul Scheunert, Herr Wohlenberg and secretary Sebald 3 months in prison, or what was even worse, on the stage transports, and the officials were hunted from place to place and from prison to prison in a most unaccountable manner.

When the exchange negotiations were inaugurated in October and November, a number of officials were brought to Petersburg and confined there in the Schpalernaja, but the American Ambassador was assured that the Consuls would be treated with all possible consideration. This promise was kept in the same manner as other promises made by the Russian Government. The gentlemen were treated as common criminals. They were subjected once more to a careful bodily examination, photographed, measured, impressions taken of their finger tips, while all their belongings with the exception of the most necessary articles of underwear, even their braces, were taken from them. What remained to them, was marked with the prison numbers. The cells were so cold that they could not divest themselves of their clothing. There were no washing utensils, but they were allowed to have a bath once a week. The nourishment consisted of half a loaf, in the morning with warm water, at midday a thin soup with groats, in the evenings soup or broth. Books were only allowed in some cases after a considerable time. They were allowed 20 minutes for exercise in a kind of cage in the prison yard, 10 ft. long and at its widest 3 ft. broad. The view was closed in with boards. During the whole time that they spent in this prison (on an average about three months) they saw nobody, and no one took the trouble of looking after them. The gentlemen, who could not speak Russian, were not allowed an interpreter and they had to clean out their own cells. Some of the gentlemen suffered dreadfully from vermin in this "model prison," but that is inseparable from all Russian arrangements; one of them had to have his hair shaved off, as he had such a congregation of bugs therein.

That was the "considerate" treatment, as promised by the Russian Government.

The last exchange negotiations show the manner in which the Russian Government keeps its word. When all arrangements had

been made by the Embassies in question, the German Government set its prisoners at liberty, while the corresponding German gentlemen were only released after 5 weeks and very strong reminders.

The officials suffered dreadfully owing to the suppression of all news from home, only being made acquainted with the lies circulated by the Russian Press, which added to their torture. Added to all this, they had the dreadful fate of the other civilian prisoners constantly before their eyes, who in as far as they had no private means, were sent to the most desolate parts of Russia without food or sufficient clothing, and there exposed to a slow and cruel death.

Some of the prison officials, who were particularly vicious, hinted to the prisoners that their release was near, so as to enjoy watching their disappointment. For instance, the captain of the railway gendarmerie station in Petersburg congratulated Consul Häring on his arrival from Ufa, on his having regained his freedom and sent him, accompanied by a police officer (as he said) to the Finnish railway station, for which drive he demanded 4 rubels, but in reality it was to the prison in the Schpalernaja that he was sent, where he was detained for a further 6 weeks without any explanation.

The conduct of the officials was especially devilish in the case of Vice-Consul Ehrt, whose wife was not allowed to see him. They demanded of her to write to him, that her condition and that of her three boys and little daughter was desperate, he should tell the authorities what had passed in the Consulate latterly, the Imperial Bank would then place a large sum to his credit, but in case of a refusal he was to be shot within 24 hours.

Families were separated on principle. Frau Fischer was imprisoned in the Petersburg female prison and then one day, devoid of her belongings, money and papers, simply set on the street, where she aimlessly wandered about, until by a lucky chance, she was found by her husband.

Consul Schönstedt in Saratow was treated with exceptional cruelty, although he had been in hospital seriously ill for several months before the declaration of war. With several other gentlemen he was dragged about to different incredibly filthy prisons, where they had to sleep on wooden benches, or on the ground until finally sent off to Orenburg. Although he experienced great difficulties in walking, he was not allowed to keep his stick. Here Schönstedt together with three of his colleagues was confined in a room furnished with wooden benches, which they were only allowed to leave three times in three weeks, so as to go and bathe*. They were then brought to the Gouvernement prison and confined in a small room, which was quite dark, owing to its sole window being

* The four Consuls were obliged to go on foot to the baths, marching through the town, accompanied by 6 soldiers with fixed bayonets.

blocked up by a wall. The prison fare was uneatable, but they were allowed to buy provisions. There they were in constant connection with criminals of the lowest grade. Herr Schönstedt remained here until 28th October, when he was banished in a temperature of 20° frost to Orsk, a small town on the frontier of the Gouvernements Orenburg and Turgai, at a distance of 260 werst rail, and 150 werst sledge drive from Orenburg, a most unnecessary torture ordered by the Governor Suchomlinow, and all the more inhuman in the case of a gentleman, who had been greatly weakened by a long illness and who remained but a few weeks in the Gouvernment. On 28th November, he had to start on the return journey to Petersburg, where he was confined in prison until his release. His crime, like that of the others, was that he was a member of the "Deutsche Flottenverein." It is incredible presumption on the part of the Russian Government to consider as a crime, the fact of a German official being a member of a German patriotic society.

Consul Nolte was brought to Omsk prison on foot and obliged to carry his own trunk—which was specially inconsiderate being as it was, the seat of his official activity! Almost a month he and two companions were confined to a small room, in which one at a time could make three strides. Requests for books were not considered, neither were they permitted to go for walks or have the use of baths.

The officials in Kiew were treated as common criminals: They were arrested on 6th August, subjected to an exact bodily examination and then imprisoned. On 24th August, they were removed, Consul Häring to Menselinsk (Ufa), Herr Forner to Sarapol (Wiatka), and actuary Herold to Malmysch (Wiatka). They were not allowed to take money or valuables with them, and were obliged to make this difficult journey, which lasted for months, to these raw climates in the light summer suits, which they happened to wear when arrested. During the journey, all provisions were stopped and they only received a viaticum consisting of 15 and later on 10 Kopeks a day. With such limited means it can be understood that they were only able to procure some black bread and now and then an egg or some milk. In spite of all their requests they were unable to get any of their own money. Even one of the officials was indignant at such treatment and gave them 10 rubels in advance, which was divided among five persons.

The officials were transported in one batch with hand-cuffed convicts, Gypsies, Chinese, etc.; in the towns, they were obliged to go on foot amidst this throng, and in Tula, Herr Häring was to have been taken through the town in chains, as they were afraid of his making an attempt at flight, however, this last insult was not carried out, owing to the interference of a Russian, who had been banished. In Kursk, the Vice-Governor gave an example of tact. He had seen the Consuls at the railway station and went quickly

to fetch his wife so that she could feast her eyes on this example of Russian barbarism. In the "Etappen prisons" for the most part there were no cells and all the prisoners lay crowded together on the floor of the large spaces, which were not only cold, but swarming with lice and bugs. In Labucha, Herr Häring was confined for four days in a cell with five Russians, one of whom was a ragged imbecile, who wandered round the whole night talking to himself. From there, he should have marched on further but because he was ill he was at last allowed to drive, however, the cold was so intense that he could never stay in the carriage for a long time, owing to his scanty clothing, and was obliged to walk through the groundless roads in spite of his tattered shoes. Arrived in Menselinsk, he was at once thrown into prison and could not procure either his clothes or his money, so that he was not even able to purchase tea and sugar to add to the hot water. His fare consisted of black bread and a disgusting prison broth served in a filthy tin can. On 24th November, after almost 4 months captivity, he was suddenly set on the street without a penny or any of his belongings, but finally a merchant, who was quite a stranger to him, lent him 25 rubels so that he was able to go to Ufa, where he finally procured his money and luggage. In Petersburg, he was again imprisoned, and all letters addressed to him, or written by him in the course of these 5 months have been held up.

Herr Forner was sent beyond Moscow, and suffered greatly from the coarse conduct of subalterns. He was compelled to do all kinds of hard work. The bodily examinations to which he was subjected in each prison on arrival and departure, were carried out in a rough inhuman way, and were bitterly complained of by the other officials also. In Perm, the prisoners were not allowed any exercise, there he lay between a man recovering from typhus and one who was highly consumptive.

The actuary Herold's stage journey lasted 2 months and 8 days and during this time (with exception of his stay in prisons) he was dependent on 10 Kopeks a day for provisions, as his money had been taken from him. Part of the journey he had to make on foot in company of three depraved men. Having arrived at his destination Malmysch, he was at once sent back, but as his feet were blistered, he was allowed to drive, which latter however, owing to the temperature and his scanty clothing was not any improvement. He was allowed to travel free from Wiatka to Petersburg, where he was at once re-arrested. It can clearly be seen that these useless journeys throughout European Russia were only carried out with the object of heightening the torture and injuring the health of the prisoners.

The recitation of the tortures and persecutions to which the other gentlemen were subjected, would be too monotonous, but we wish to give the experiences of Herr Wohlenberg, who, after 4 weeks arrest, was sent to Tobolsk in Sibiria, and en route, made the

acquaintance of the prisons in Smolensk, Moscow, Tula, Samara, Tscheljabinsk, Omsk, and Tjumen—all of which swarmed with bugs and lice. The numerous bodily examinations were carried out in the most brutal manner, and in Samara, on being transported to the prison, he was hand-cuffed for 9 hours, while the prison diet passes all description. In Tula, where 104 prisoners were confined in one room, there was but one cubic metre of air for each prisoner and the sink was before the only window, neither had they any place to rest. He was called on to do hard labour such as breaking stones, from which the Russian political prisoners were freed. His luggage was taken from him on the way and never returned, even the small articles of toilette, which he had managed to keep, were stolen from him by the convoys. From Tobolsk, he was obliged to undertake the difficult and dangerous journey by sledge and boat to his destination—the village of Demjanskoje—at a distance of 200 werst, where he contracted a severe inflammation of the lungs, but received no medical assistance. During the whole of this journey, he was dependent on a viaticum of 10 Kopeks per day.

The state of culture of a nation can best be judged by their behaviour to women. How did the Russian authorities act in this regard, not in a remote village, but in their real capital Moscow? At the General Consulate in Moscow Fräulein Selma Meyer was employed as typist and remained at the disposition of the American Consul. The Police thought they had discovered a most important personality and searched her house several times, of course, without success. One of these searches took place in the night of 10th August, being carried out by a number of officials of different grades. Fräulein Meyer was obliged to dress in the presence of several officials and was then brought to the Janski Utschastock at 3.30 a. m. and there placed in a cage situated at the entrance. This is a railed-in space, about 50 cm in depth in which a bench with room for about three persons is placed so that one can hardly stand, and everybody going to the police offices passes by. After some time, a completely depraved man was also placed here, who seemed to have lain for weeks in the gutter and did not even wear trousers. He protested against being put here, although the policeman said: "But we always lock up the street rabble here." A crowd gathered round the cage scoffing Fräulein Meyer and shouting "Niemka" (The German) and even dancing round in hysterical delight. She was not permitted to leave the cage even for the most necessary human wants. She remained there until 12.30 p.m. exposed to the mocking crowd until unable to bear it any longer, she was successful in playing the hysterical. She was then brought to a room, next to one in which the police officers were collected, stripped of her garments and deprived of them for some time. Police officers wanted to come to her, but owing to her energetic behaviour desisted. She was then confined in the incredibly dirty Untersuchungs-gefängnis (imprisonment pending trial). All her requests for underlinen re-

mained unanswered. On 1st September, she was sent by stage to Wologda, scantily clad in the thin blouse, which she had worn when arrested, and from there was to be sent as the only woman, with 152 prisoners to the village of Selo Ustje, however she was successful in managing to remain in Wologda until she was taken to Petersburg on the excuse of an alleged exchange. There she was placed in solitary confinement in the woman's prison, where she remained $3\frac{1}{4}$ months. Repeated attempts were made to secure her for Russian service.

In spite of this disgraceful treatment, meted out to our Consuls, who were tortured for months in the most inhuman manner, the Russian Government had the cheek to complain in a circular, of the alleged bad treatment of Russian functionaries in Germany, making use of expressions such as "brutal, inhuman," etc. But what was the result of these exaggerations and inventions? Investigations showed that some people in the first excitable days after the declaration of war had to put up with inconveniences and hostility from the public. Regarding the treatment of civilians, towards whom the Russian Government acted so brutally and who will be held accountable for thousands of those condemned to slow death, the Russian Government's assertions are shown in a peculiar light elsewhere, as a description of the crimes committed in Russia, would require too much space here.

The circular calls special attention to the bad treatment of Herrn von Bellegarde, the Russian representative at the Book-Exhibition in Leipzig. This gentleman was arrested, but not like our representatives, only because they were German officials, but because he had given reason for suspicion by his repeated participation at night assemblies in a Villa in Grossdeuben, which had been rented by a suspicious Russian. He was at once subjected to an investigation, and after 10 hours—he spent the night in prison at his own request—was again set at liberty, all having been satisfactorily explained, while our gentlemen were hunted round for months in the most objectionable prisons and in the company of common criminals—the only investigations having been carried out by subaltern police officials. Besides this, the chief of the police in Leipzig apologized to Herrn von Bellegarde on account of the inconvenience to which he was subjected. Latter expressed his thanks and said: "*qu'il emportait un très bon souvenir.*" In the same way, he and his gentlemen in Berlin thanked the accompanying officials for the humane and kind way the affair was carried through. It appears ridiculous, that the Russian Government is indignant, because this gentleman's money was taken from him during the 10 hours he spent in prison, while in Russia all the prisoners were deprived of their money and at the frontier all Germans were obliged to give up theirs in so far as it exceeded 50 rubels—but all without receipts.

It is further alleged that Herr von Knorring, the former Minister resident in Darmstadt, was badly treated. This example has been

badly chosen, as Herr von Knorring, who took a number of people with him, expressed the wish on his departure, of giving a considerable gratification to the police fund in recognition of their services, which were so ably carried out, but from which he was advised by Germans to desist.

The Consul General, Baron Schilling, who, as was known to the German Government from an espionage case heard before the Reichsgericht in Leipzig, was at the head of an extensive Russian espionage organisation in Silesia, was arrested and brought to the prison on 2nd August at 6:30 p. m., but released by the following midday. On his request, the president of the police visited him at once. What a difference, as compared to the treatment of our officials, who for 4—6 months partly in solitary confinement, and partly with common criminals were entirely left to the tyranny of subaltern officials! None of the higher officials ever bothered about them.

Consul Poljanowski in Königsberg has been arrested on account of the espionage, which was carried out in a striking manner. He was and is under arrest, but has many alleviations, principally as regards his intercourse.

The Consuls in Danzig and Mannheim, von Ostrowski and Brosset, who did not come across the frontier, can only attribute this to the circumstance that they did not follow the advice given them, of going to the frontier at once, but went to Berlin, where they were allowed full liberty. The circumstances connected with the departure of the Embassy from Berlin are greatly exaggerated and the Ambassador bears the responsibility for the annoyance suffered, as he did not keep to the arrangements, which had been made with the police. At first he complained of the strict guard placed on the Embassy. It was then arranged that the departure should take place at 12 o'clock. The motors were to drive into the courtyard; but instead of this, they were drawn up before the building and loaded, during the process of which the Embassy personnel behaved in a most provocative manner, and on entering the carriages laughing and chattering loudly, passed remarks, such as: "You will see, we shall soon return!" So that the bitterness among the crowd, which was mainly composed of the better classes, greatly increased. Just as the carriages drove off, they certainly were accompanied by justified hoots and followed by a crowd, and at this moment a batch of police came on the scene as had been pre-arranged. But it must be remarked that the motors drove so quickly, that it was impossible for any serious molestations to take place, nor were any remarked. The Ambassador and Embassy Staff had remained in the Embassy, only departing when the police had cleared the way. He drove to the railway station with the gentlemen of his staff in five motor cars, escorted by mounted

police and was not interfered with in any way. At the station, the royal reception rooms were opened and a special train placed at his disposal. One of the members of the *Auswärtige Amt* was also present and Herr Swerbejew did not say a word to him as to the alleged molestation.

Owing to the exceptional paucity of actual material contained in the Russian Memorandum and the construction of a connection between the alleged sufferings, undergone by Russians in Germany, and the destruction of the German Embassy in Petersburg, it is obvious that the whole memorandum has only been compiled to take off public attention from the unheard of and scandalous destruction of the German Embassy—which was carried out under the very eyes and with the apparant approbation of the Government.

This atrocious violation of human rights, unique since the murder of the Ambassador at Rastatt, is described in reports sent by German officials, who were witnesses of the event, as follows:

On 4th August, a great demonstration took place in the afternoon, on the square in front of the Embassy, at which inciting speeches were held by military persons. Towards 10 o'clock p.m., a crowd numbering several thousands had assembled, and began stoning the building accompanied by whistling and shouts, then the little door on the Moika side was battered in with hatchets whereupon the mob penetrated the building, destroying whatever they found, in so far as they did not appropriate it for their own use. Some hundred persons had climbed on to the roof where they succeeded in tearing down one of the male figures from the beautiful group and dashing it on the street, from where it was afterwards thrown into the Moika; the municipal administration completed the work of destruction later on by removing the other figures. Three pictures of Russian rulers were ceremoniously carried to the street and erected on the steps of the monument. The police which had been stationed on the square, remained absolutely passive, in the same way the chief of police who contented himself with looking on. Towards 11.30 the crowd began to disperse. An official, who had hidden in the Embassy, heard spurs clinking and somebody saying: "Well, they have gone to work well here! We can see what they have left for us". Some of the personnel had escaped across the roofs, but old Hofrat Kattner could not run so quickly and was murdered in a most atrocious manner. It is typical for the ethical standard of the leading Russian newspaper: "*Novoje Wremja*" that it was not ashamed of spreading the atrocious lie that the Ambassador, Graf Pourtalès, who had already left on 1st August, had had Herrn Kattner murdered, owing to his being an inconvenient confident, although Kattner spoke to several persons on 4th August. Another gentleman, who had successfully defended himself for some time with a Champagne bottle, from being overcome

by a Hooligan armed with a knife, attributes his safety to the fact, that just at this moment the electric light was extinguished throughout the entire building. whereupon the crowd seized with panic took sudden flight, and the official was able to escape from the building unnoticed among the mob.

Shortly before 12 o'clock, fresh hordes penetrated the house and continued the work of destruction, armed as they were with all kinds of tools suitable for the purpose. At 1.45 a.m., the attack which had somewhat abated, was recommenced with renewed vigour, and at 2.45 a.m. the crowd tried to set the Embassy on fire, but the police entertaining fears probably for the adjoining houses, now interfered and prevented this last act of vandalism. From the ease, with which the Embassy and square were cleared, it can be seen what a criminal part the Government played. Added to this, it is obvious for those who know Russia that the work of destruction if not actually kindled by the Government, was at least allowed to have full play, as it would have been an easy matter to restore order on this square within a short time, as was afterwards the case, when the mob had been allowed to give vent to its feelings for a space of five hours.

Some of the German officials had communicated with the American Chargé d'Affaires at 11 p.m. and latter stated that he had requested protection from the Foreign Office. The Austrian Ambassador called Herrn Sasonow's attention to the unheard-of proceedings at 1 o'clock, but only succeeded in receiving from him the almost incredible reply: "Ils ont cassé quelques vitres." This frivolous expression made use of by the man, who directs foreign affairs for the Czar's Kingdom, is placed in a peculiar light when compared to the following report sent by the American Embassy:

"The German Embassy was completely wrecked by the mob, not a single article of furniture being left undestroyed. Everything was smashed into the smallest possible pieces and thrown into the street. Actually nothing was saved, even the iron railing of the stairway, the bath-tubs and doors being smashed to pieces. Not only all the glass in the windows were broken, but the whole window frames were ripped out and smashed up. Therefore in its present state nothing but the outer and inner walls exist."

The Russian Government's action can best be designated by the celebrated words of its present "best friend" and former oppositional Polish leader Roman Dmowski, who in the course of a speech held in the Duma, greatly offended the Russian Government at the time, in which he rightly said: "The Russian people have a number of good qualities, but the Government is Asiatic."

Kitchener's Calumnies.

The "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" commenting on Lord Kitchener's speech in the House of Lords on 27th ult., writes:

"The English Minister of War in the course of his speech of 27th April, has dared to attack the honour of the German Army, reproaching the Germans with inhuman cruelty towards unprotected prisoners. Owing to the personality of the accuser and the weight of his accusation, it is impossible for us to treat this calumny with the silent contempt which it deserves. When a man is so versed in the ways of English warfare from personal experience as Lord Kitchener must be, the whole world must believe that only the certain knowledge of quite unexceptional inhuman acts can force him to utter a condemnation of others. The main basis for Lord Kitchener's accusation is apparently the report of the English Major Vandeleur, who escaped from German captivity. Characteristic of the trustworthiness of Major Vandeleur's asseverations is the fact, that the author of them is no longer considered to be normal by his own comrades since the war affected his nervous system.

Lord Kitchener asserts that the German troops often behaved brutally to English prisoners, many of them having been shot in cold blood, and they have not even curbed their low passions in the case of wounded officers. In prisoners' camps the cruel treatment is continued by hunger and other means of torture. Germany has displayed enormous warlike abilities and courage, but its military honour is nevertheless stained by actions, which can only be compared to the barbarity of Dervishes.

Whoever is really acquainted with the German character and has not formed his opinion of same, from the writings of a libelous press, will—whatever nationality he may be—indignantly repudiate this irresponsible condemnation of an army, the strict discipline of which has been proved in many glorious wars and has often enough been criticised by strangers as unnecessarily severe. The German army is attacked by an adversary under whose command took place, the heartless tortures of the German volunteer Callies, from whom in October 1914, an English officer of the Aviation Corps together with several soldiers, attempted by savage ill-treatment to provoke treason against the German troops. Nothing has been heard up to the present to the effect that this miserable business has been disavowed by the English. It is therefore useless to expect any expiation for the miserable treatment which the German troops captured in March, after the engagement at Neuve Chapelle, suffered at the hands of the Indian troops under the guidance and superintendence of Englishmen.

Unfortunately there are only too many similar cases of English cruelty, which have been stated on oath, and among which may be mentioned the inhuman treatment of our compatriots in both German and English colonies. The statements made by Kitchener

as to the German prisoners' camps can be contradicted by reports of several neutral witnesses. Among others, the American Ambassador in Berlin recently stated that the English prisoners received suitable treatment as according to his own investigations. We do not believe that in face of this statement Lord Kitchener of all others has any right to make complaints. His name has been coupled for all time with the ill-famed concentration camps, in which so many unfortunate women and children lingered miserably during the Boer war. The statement that our troops wantonly shot defenceless prisoners, does not surprise us as made by Kitchener. The English Army Administration fosters the belief among its troops that in case of their being taken prisoners, death or some equally cruel fate awaits them. The reasons for this are so obvious that we need not further discuss them.

If Lord Kitchener quotes international conventions for justification of his accusations, we object on the ground that the history of no nation in the world is so full of examples of the cold blooded non-observance of such agreements as is the English. A nation which furnishes its troops with ammunition which tears cruel wounds, like the British infantry bullet, ought rather to desist from all discussion about the Hague Convention. A nation which sends coloured barbarians against a European race, giving free course to their predatory savage instincts, ought rather not recall the Dervishes, in whose history the day of Omdurman is certainly no proof of English gentleness and mildness.

A nation which attempts to starve the German race together with its women and children, because it feels too weak to conquer by force of arms in open battle, should abstain from appealing to the human feelings of others. For it is not its, but owing to our deserts if we can laugh at this method of warfare and English honour, which has been indelibly stained for all time, is saved a blot, that a plan be carried out the disgracefulness of which cannot be lessened by the helplessness of those who conceived it.

If Kitchener deprives us of his further esteem, because our conduct in war does not coincide with his ideas of military honour, we shall bear this in the proud knowledge that by this distinction between us and him we can only increase in our own estimation.

Inaccuracies in the English Report of the Sinking of the "Dresden."

On 15th March, the British Admiralty published the following:—

On 14th March at 9 o'clock in the morning, the "Dresden" was surprised off the Juan-Fernandez-Island, by the cruisers "Glasgow" (Captain John Luce), the auxiliary cruiser "Orama" Captain John R. Segrave, and the cruiser "Kent" (Captain John B. Allen). A

fight followed, but after 5 minutes, the "Dresden" hauled down her flag and hoisted the white flag. She was severely damaged and on fire. When the flames had been burning brightly for some time, her ammunition chamber exploded and she sank. The crew was saved and 15 severely wounded Germans landed in Valparaiso.

The Chilian Note as published in the "Times" protesting against the attack on the "Dresden" in Chilian waters gives the following description of the facts: It is at first stated that on 9th March, the "Dresden" cast anchor in Cumberland Bay, about 500 yards from the shore, and requested permission to remain there eight days, so as to carry out repairs to the machines. Negotiations were entered into as the local authorities were only inclined to agree to 24 hours grace. The description goes on to state literally: In the meantime, on 14th March, an English flotilla appeared, consisting of the cruisers "Kent" and "Glasgow" and the auxiliary cruiser "Orama" and they immediately opened fire on the "Dresden" which was lying at anchor. The commander of the port, who had started to pay the usual formal visit to the "Glasgow," was obliged to return to land.

The "Dresden" hoisted the flag of truce and sent one of her officers to the "Glasgow" with the intimation that she was in a neutral port, but this circumstance was not heeded by the English squadron, who challenged the "Dresden" to surrender with the intimation that in case of refusal she would have to be destroyed. The commander of the "Dresden" thereupon gave the command for the ammunition chamber to be blown up and the ship sunk.

The senior English Captain was Commander John Luce. He cannot have had any doubts that the "Dresden" did not dream of hauling down her flag and surrendering. The report of the British Admiralty so greatly varying from this, forces us to the conclusion that either a British officer sent in a false report, or the British Admiralty knowingly changed the contents of a report sent by one of its commanders, thus publishing falsehoods.

The German Note referring to the Sinking of the "Lusitania."

The Governments of the United States of America and of the Neutral Powers of Europe have received the following communication, sent by the German Foreign Office to the above mentioned various Embassies:

The German Government desires to express its deepest sympathy at the loss of human lives on board the "Lusitania." The responsibility, however, rests with the British Government, which through its plan of starving the civilian population of Germany, has forced Germany to resort to retaliatory measures. In spite of the German offer, to cease the submarine war in case the starvation

plan were given up, the British Government has taken even more stringent blockade measures. British merchant vessels being generally armed with guns, and having repeatedly tried to ram submarines so that previous search was impossible, and they cannot, therefore, be treated as ordinary merchant vessels. A recent declaration made in the British Parliament by the Parliamentary Secretary, in answer to a question of Lord Charles Beresford's, stated that, at present, practically all British merchant vessels were armed and provided with hand grenades. Besides, it has openly been admitted by the English Press that the "Lusitania" was armed with guns of large calibre.

The Imperial Government is also acquainted with the fact that the "Lusitania" on previous voyages repeatedly carried large quantities of war materials, as the Cunard liners "Mauretania" and "Lusitania" on account of their speed being considered as comparatively safe from submarine attacks, and therefore specially suitable for the transport of ammunition. On the present voyage, the "Lusitania" carried 5,400 cases of ammunition, while the rest of the cargo consisted chiefly of contraband. The German Ambassador, Graf Bernstorff, gave a special warning exclusive of the general German warning, against passengers using the "Lusitania," both which however remained unheeded by the Neutrals and were even scoffed at by the Cunard-line and the English Press. If England after repeated official and unofficial German warnings considered herself able to declare that the boat ran no risk, and thus light-heartedly assumed responsibility for human lives on board the steamer, which owing to its armament and cargo, was liable to destruction, the German Government, in spite of its heartfelt sympathy for the loss of American lives cannot but regret that Americans felt more inclined to trust English promises than to pay attention to the warnings, which Germany gave, therefore, the blame must be laid entirely on the British Government.

How the Russian Advance on the Carpathians was foiled.

Vienna, 24th April 1915.

The War Correspondent from Austrian Headquarters sends us the following description of the fighting, which took place at Easter in the Kobila region:—

The bitter and obstinate fighting, which took place in the Carpathians, reached its climax in the Easter battles. The powerful Russian offensive, which began on 20th March—accompanied with some slight successes in the Ondawa section on the western wing—met with a resistance, which was not to be overcome. The costly attacks in the wooded territory between the Lupkow

and Uzsok Passes did not succeed in achieving anything more than forcing our wedge, which had been advanced against Baligrod to be withdrawn on a line parallel with the western wing to the heights just behind the Hungarian frontier at Telepotsch, Zellö, Nagypolany and Juhaszlak. Now the Russian Army Administration resolved to make an attempt at breaking through our lines at the Lupkow Pass on the line Mezoe-Laborez on both sides of the Laborez river. Had this attempt succeeded in the direction of Homonna, the positions so obstinately held by the western wing in the Ondawa section would have been rendered untenable, and the forces fighting in the wooded territory, have been put in a bad position. The plan of action had been well chosen and had for its object nothing less than the victorious decision of the entire Carpathian battles.

The scene of action to be considered in the first instance on the advance being carried out, was the valley of the Laborez and the adjoining heights to the South of Mezoe-Laborez. To the West a straggling ridge runs parallel with the valley, some single crests towering upwards; to the East however, different declines stretch down to the river, which are separated from one another by tributaries of the Laborez. The most remarkable of these is the stream which, coming from the Brinova Height, branches off, filling the space between the Vilsava and Virava. In the Kobila valley the mountains rise to an altitude of 340 m.

The above described section played a most important role during the fighting and it was the permanent possession of the Kobila, which decided the issue. The attacks of the Russian hordes after long fighting, carried out with varying success, obtained an advantage in the middle of the front, which on Good Friday, 2nd April, caused our forces, fighting between the Virava and the Laborez, to be withdrawn as far as the height of Izbugyabela. Only the extreme right wing under command of Oberst Krebs obstinately maintained its position on the ridge towards Kudroveci, just opposite Spur 584. The rest of the right wing under Oberst Kemmel, stuck fast to the last portion of the upper part of the Trostyanski Vreh. Kobila and Uhlisko were in the hands of the enemy. Under these circumstances, the forces fighting to the West of the Laborez, had to retreat towards Oskroeske, early on the morning of Holy Saturday; but reinforcements were already being brought up.

The German Beskides Corps, the foremost sections of which came up with the right wing on 3rd April, advanced to an attack simultaneously with the middle, supported by several batteries, which enfiladed the flanks from the heights, to the East of Virava. Supported by a mountain battery and two field guns, the forces commanded by Oberst Kemmel advanced in conjunction with the German reinforcements towards the ridge of the Trostyanski Vreh, taking by assault Hill 584, an important ingress to the Kobila

Height. The centre forces had not been idle. In spite of enormous losses caused by artillery and infantry fire, our troops pressed forward. Oberstleutnant Baloz with his Honveds advanced almost as far as the Uhlisko height, which he took by storm, while the troops commanded by Oberst Kemmel made a flank attack. 500 Russians were made prisoners. No sooner had Baloz taken up his position on the hill, than Major Krimm brought up the batteries, commanded by Oberleutnants Kunze and Brandil, thereby supporting the front to such an extent that advanced sections of the central group could take up a firm position on the extreme spurs of the Javirska. On 4th April, Easter Sunday, a general attack was inaugurated in which the second echelon of the German reinforcements were employed to the East of the Laborez river. Suddenly a strong Russian attack was undertaken from Virava against the right flank. But the Germans, who bore the brunt of it, quickly formed a front for their defence. Oberst Krebs hastened to their support while the batteries at Vilag thundered on to the enemy's front at the same time. The Russian losses were so great that they were forced to retire towards Virava, where they sought cover. The centre also made progress: Oberst Klein advancing considerably towards the Javirska. Oberst Phleps proceeded from Uhlisko so far, that he was able to stop the gap that had been caused between this place and the right wing. Oberleutnant Keill taking advantage of a good opportunity by means of his howitzers, advanced from one of the Javirska Heights, so as to give the Germans good support, who were deploying against the straggling ridge, which stretches from Javirska to Alsoesebeny. Our left wing consisting of the troops which had been withdrawn to the West of Laborez, had also proceeded to attack. The artillery from the Laborez valley gave splendid support to the German attack, our troops that co-operated, being commanded by Oberstleutnant Adenek and Major Waechter, assisted by those commanded by Major Schoen, the Allied pushed forward from the western bank of the Laborez towards the positions at Hegyesczeben in spite of the violent artillery fire to which the enemy subjected them. The remaining parts of the left wing advanced on the ridge to the West of the Laborez.

The 5th April, Easter Monday, brought complete success to the battlefield. German and Austro-Hungarian batteries vied with each other in their endeavours to destroy the enemy's exceptionally strong positions situated between "Hill 584" and Kobila. Thanks to these preliminaries, Oberst Kemmel's group was able to make an assault on the positions at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The other ingress to the Kobila, the Javirska, was taken in storm by the 40th infantry regiment, whereby the Germans were finally freed from the flank fire, which up to this had prevented their advance on the ridge, which stretches towards Alsoesebeny, thus securing the capture of this section of the Vilsava valley. In the meantime the Fate of the Kobila had been decided. Flanked from the Javirska

and severely threatened by the Germans and Honveds from "Hill 584," the defenders could not make a stand against the 4th Bosnian-Herzegovinian and the 89th and 90th Infantry Regiments, which Major Kuchinka led to the assault.

The final victory was achieved on the most important point of the battlefield. To the West of the Laborez river, the decision had not been arrived at on Easter Monday. True, the group commanded by Oberst Hausmann, advanced towards the height at Felsőcsébeny, but owing to the flank fire, to which it was subjected from "Spur 468," from guns and machine guns its position was most critical. Major Liebhart and his men did their utmost to take the heights by assault. The attackers advanced to within 30 yards of the enemy position, but were unable to work a passage through the wire obstacles. Still, they took attention off the Hausmann group, which had quickly surmounted the difficulties of the situation and taking the foremost enemy positions by storm, advanced on the crest of Felsőcsébeny. On 6th April German reinforcements arrived at this part of the field of action. In conjunction with these fresh troops, the capture of "Hill 468" was effected. Oberst Hausmann put the enemy to flight after bitter and violent fighting from their second line on the Felsőcsébeny crest, but the Russians, who were in the base situated behind this, offered most obstinate resistance, against which three attacks carried out with the greatest bravery, broke down. Now mountain batteries were brought up, which subjected these positions to a most effective fire. In the early morning hours of 6th April, the assault was repeated in co-operation with a German division and at last the allied troops were able to capture this so bitterly contested *point d'appui* from the enemy. The Russian plans, however well laid, had once more been foiled.

Piercing the Russian Lines in West-Galicia.

Berlin, 6th Mai 1915.

Main Headquarters has sent us the following description of the fighting in West-Galicia:

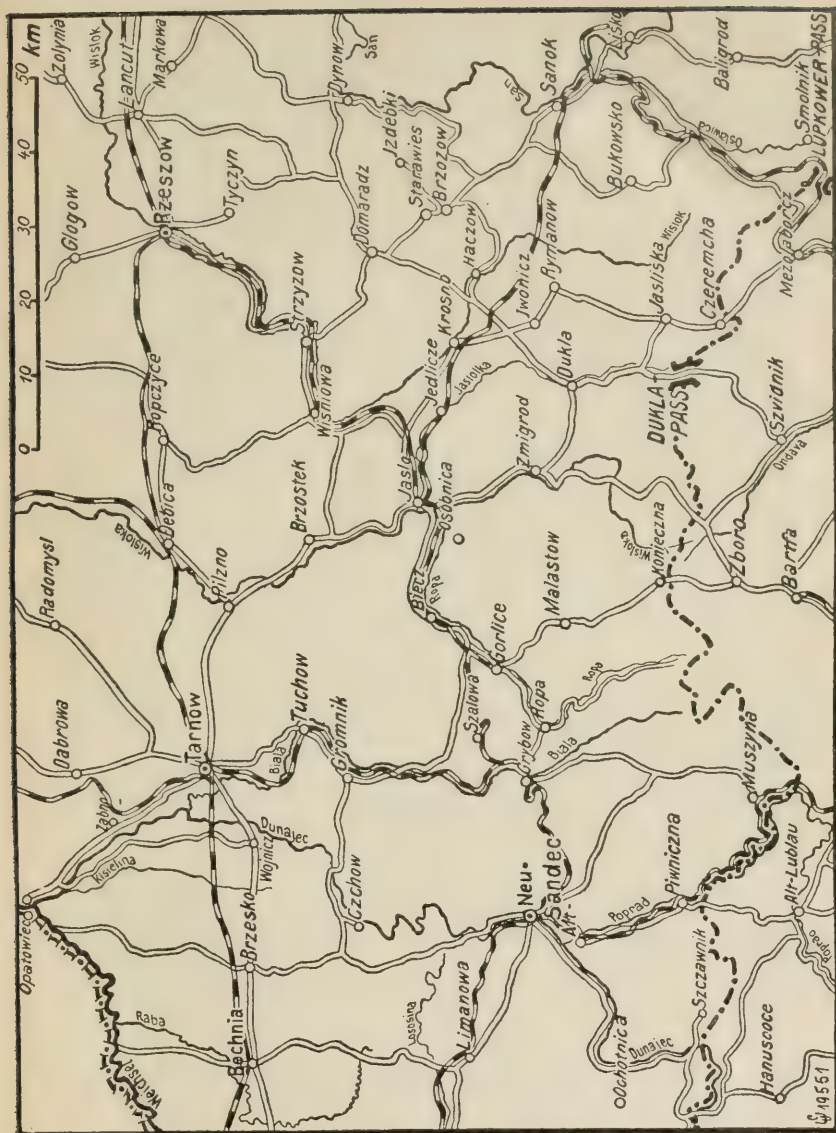
The enemy was completely surprised when at the end of April, considerable German troop transports were brought to West-Galicia. These troops, under command of General von Mackensen, had the task of piercing the Russian lines between the Carpathian ridge and the middle Dunajec in cooperation with the adjoining armies of our Austro-Hungarian Allies. The problem was a new one and the task difficult, but the heavens favoured our troops with magnificent sunshine and dry roads. In this way the airmen and artillery were able to pursue their activity undisturbed, and the local difficulties presented by the country, which here is similar to the German Alps or the Hürselberge in Thüringen, were surmounted. At several points it was only possible to bring up ammunition by means of

beasts of burden, while the columns and batteries crossed rustic bridges at great risk. All preparations and reconnoissance went off smoothly and quietly.

On the afternoon of 1st May, the artillery opened fire on the Russian positions, which had been consolidated for the past five months in the best possible manner. They were situated one above the other on the steep ridge and declines, upon which strong obstacles had been erected. At some single points, the maintenance of which appeared of special importance to the Russians, seven lines of trenches had been thrown up. The entire constructions were planned with considerable skill and capable of flanking each other. The allied infantry, however, had advanced nearer the enemy on the nights preceding the attack and consolidated the attacking positions. On the night of 1st May, the artillery opened a slow fire on the hostile positions, during the course of which fire was ceased now and then at pre-arranged times, so as to allow the pioneers to cut the wire entanglements.

On 2nd May at 6 a.m., an indescribable and incessant artillery fire from every calibre gun, was opened on the front extending several kilometres in length. This stopped as suddenly at 10 a.m. and at the same moment our men proceeded to attack the enemy positions. The Russians were so shaken by our artillery fire that but weak resistance was offered at many points, and when the allied infantry arrived near the entrenchments, they took to flight in a wild panic, throwing away guns and cooking utensils and leaving enormous masses of infantry ammunition and corpses in the trenches. At one point even, the enemy cut the wire obstacles themselves, so as to surrender to the Germans. In many cases but weak opposition was offered in the second and third lines, whereas at other points the attacking troops had to overcome bitter and obstinate resistance.

In cooperation with Austro-Hungarian troops, Bavarian regiments attacked the Zemczykoberg situated at 250 metres distance from their attacking position and which can be described as a regular fortress. One Bavarian infantry regiment was covered with glory, while to their left, Silesian regiments attacked the heights of Sekowa and Sokol. Young regiments were successful in capturing the cemetery hill at Gorlice and the railway at Komieniza, both of which were gallantly defended by the enemy. Galician battalions of the Austro-Hungarian units had attacked the steep hill positions on the Pustkiberg, while Hungarian troops captured the Wiatrowka heights after a most bitter and obstinate fight. The Prussian Guards threw the enemy from their high positions to the East of the Biala and took seven consecutive Russian lines at Staszkowka, which were obstinately defended. The Naphtha works situated near Gorlice, were set on fire either by the Russians, or an exploding shell. Enormous flames sprang up and a cloud of smoke several metres in height could be seen against the sky. On the evening of 2nd May,



just as the warm spring sun gradually gave place to a cool night, the first main position had been pierced on a front of about 16 kilometres and a depth of 4 kilometres. At least 20,000 prisoners, several dozen guns, and about 50 machine-guns, were captured by the allied troops, who vied with each other during the battles for the palm of victory. Besides, an incalculable quantity of various kinds of war-booty was captured, including an enormous amount of ammunition and rifles.

II.

On the evening of 2nd May, the allied troops had not only succeeded in piercing the Russian front between the Carpathian ridge and the middle Dunajec, but had succeeded in gaining the eastern bank of this river to the South. On the night of 1st May, some of the Austrians had succeeded in crossing the Dunajec by moon-shine. The operations had been so carefully planned and excellently carried out, that the enemy was completely surprised, more than 1,000 prisoners being taken, and numerous guns and machine guns captured.

On 3rd and 4th May, fighting was continued. On 2nd May, the most advanced of the Russian positions was captured, but there were three more or less strongly fortified positions on a line of about 30 kilometres, reaching to the Wisloka. The allied troops met with but little resistance in the Russian second positions, although hand to hand fighting frequently took place. Important engagements took place at single points, principally at those, at which it was possible for the enemy to bring up reinforcements from the rear, and the consequence of this was that the reinforcements were thus drawn into the general retreat. In the afternoon, the allied troops were stationed before the third line of enemy positions, against which the attack on 3rd May could not be carried out. The troops commanded by General von François, contested on this day for the possession of the Wilczak height, the key of the town of Biecz, which was situated before the Russians third position. The enemy fortifications on this hill were especially strong. Their entrenchments were storied one above the other and they tried to delay the approach of the German troops by carrying out a counter-attack from the South. But a few shrapnells were sufficient, in forcing back the enemy, who had already been so severely shaken. The Wilczak was in the hands of the Germans by the evening of the 3rd May. The Prussian Guards captured the heights of Lipie after bitter fighting, and the right wing of the Austrian troops commanded by Archduke Joseph Ferdinand, succeeded in forcing the Russians from the steep wooded hills to the East of the Biala valley and gaining ground in the direction of Tuchow.

Although on 3rd May, the Russians were still suffering from the effects of their defeat of the day before, nevertheless they

thought on 4th May, to bring the offensive of the allied troops to a standstill. They commanded 4—5 infantry and 4 cavalry divisions, inclusive of what had been brought up on 3rd May, and these were now brought against the attackers. Their third main position was drawn up in a large circle, directed towards south-west at a distance of about 12—15 kilometres from the town of Jaslo like a bridge-head. The heights of Scerzyny to the North of Biecz and the Ostra Gora were important *points d'appui*. The enemy offered violent and bitter resistance at many points, but they were lacking, (as we have heard from officer prisoners) in well-arranged and united leadership. The employment of different units, which was disorganized as a consequence of the fighting on 2nd and 3rd May, now became still more so and the reserves were thrown in in utter confusion. Regiments and battalions were thrown into the front wherever the need was greatest. The disbandment had reached such a degree that, if the enemy offered obstinate resistance at any one point of the fighting line, this was frustrated by the fact, that the troops on the right and left had lost all hope and were prematurely retreating. In this way, the Russians lost their third line of positions. The Prussian Guards reached the neighbourhood of Scerzyny on the evening of the same day. The X. Hungarian regiment of Honveds stormed a height to the north of Biecz, having attacked seven times, whereupon the troops that were holding the adjoining heights, surrendered. Further to the South, German troops were making preparations for an assault on the Ostra Gora when the enemy, heavily shaken by the heavy artillery, hoisted the white flag and surrendered in batches before a German infantry-man had even attempted to attack.

On the evening of 4th May, the right wing of the Mackensen Army had arrived within a few kilometres of the Wisloka, and it was expected that new enemy positions would have to be encountered on the eastern bank, as prisoners had related that the Russians had forced the inhabitants to assist in the erection of concrete dug-outs. But for this, the Russian army under the command of the former Bulgarian Minister at the Court of the Czar, the present Russian General and Army Leader, Prince Radko Dimitriew, there was not sufficient time; the reserves were used up, fresh units not forthcoming and the allied offensive continued to press forward.

The number of prisoners had reached 40,000 by the evening of 4th May. Among the Cossak officers, there were some illiterates, this remarkable fact being confirmed in their military papers.

III.

The Pursuit of the Russian Armies.

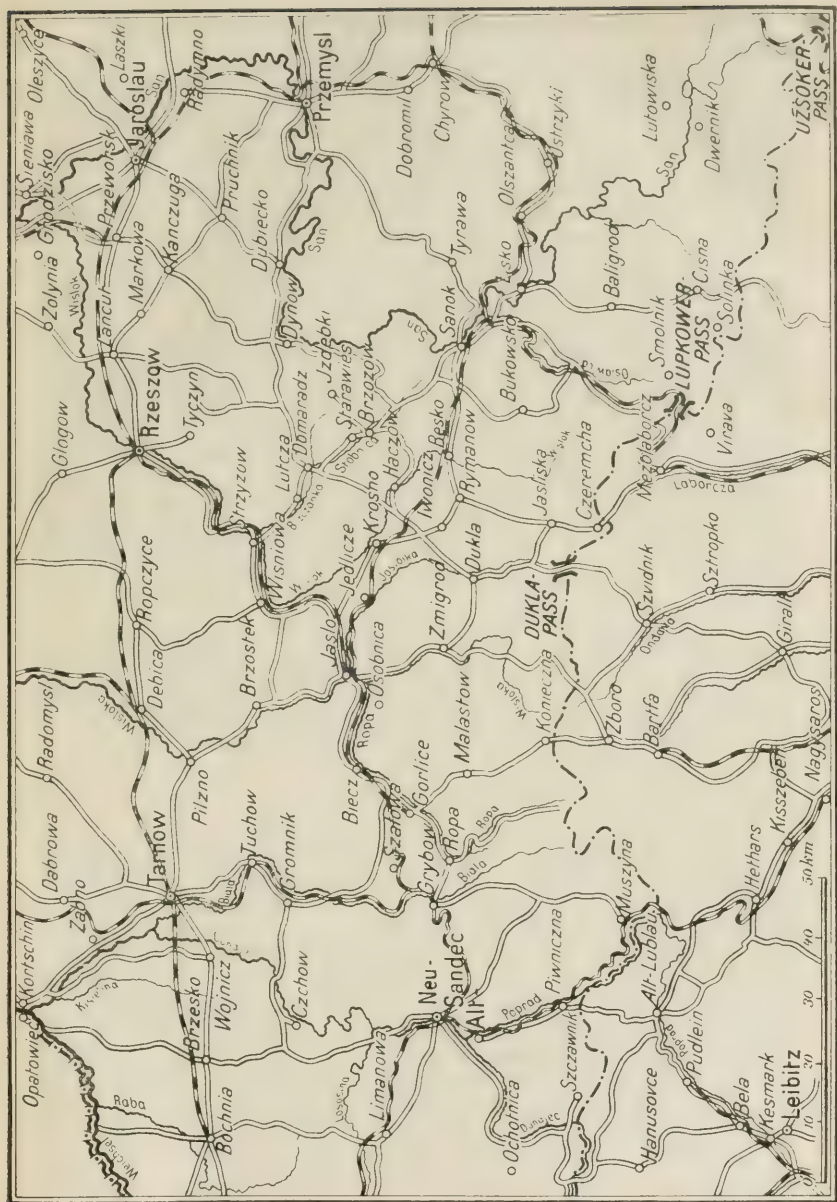
On 6th May, the Mackensen army having crossed the Wisloka, and the troops commanded by the Arch-Duke Joseph Ferdinand, having captured Tarnow from the enemy and forced them to evac-

uate the entire line from the Dunajec to the Vistula—the battle of Gorlice-Tarnow could be considered as finished. The enemy had been forced to retreat on a front of 160 kilometres, and the Russian positions that had been penetrated, were situated at a distance of 30 kilometres behind the victors, who had taken up the pursuit along the whole line. This latter was accompanied with the best results along the entire front.

On the afternoon of 6th May, the advanced Austrian corps adjoining Mackensen's right wing, came in touch with the Russian 48th Division in the Carpathian village Tyalwa, taking a General and a Colonel as well as 3,000 men, prisoners besides this capturing 16 field guns, 6 quite new field howitzers, numerous carriages of ammunition, and war booty of all kinds. On 7th May, the remnants of this division opposed the troops commanded by General von Emmich on the heights of Hyrowa-Gora. A German officer carrying a flag of truce was sent out to demand the surrender of the division with its commander, but the General said he was sorry, he could not do this, resigned his command and fled with his Staff to the woods, whereupon 3,500 men surrendered to the Emmich's troops. After a fortnight's wandering in the Carpathians, the Infantry General Korniloff surrendered on 12th May with his entire Staff to some Austrian troops.

On 8th May, the Austrian III. Army Boroewic had already 12,000 prisoners, and General von Emmich reported having captured 4,500 on the same day. A weak Hungarian squadron, supported by a German cycle contingent was successful in repulsing 3 Russian squadrons from Krosno, thereby capturing the first Wislok crossing (not to be confused with the Wisloka). In the town, a quantity of provisions and medical appliances were captured. In close co-operation with the German troops the heights occupied by the enemy on the eastern bank were captured on 8th May. The Guards on their march to Wislok came across 9 Russian guns and 21 ammunition carriages, which the enemy had been obliged to forsake on their hasty flight. The troops occupying Odrzykon, which were to have disputed the river crossing, surrendered, and the number of prisoners taken on 8th May, amounted to 3,000. On the following day, a regiment of Guards, who had surprised the enemy rear-guards near Tropie, took 12 officers and 3,000 men prisoners, as well as 6 guns. This booty was increased on the same day by 2,000 more prisoners, 8 machine guns, 1 gun and several cartridge carriages, which were captured at another point. The number of prisoners taken by the troops commanded by the Arch-Duke amounted to 20,000 by the evening of 9th May.

The enemy hastily retreated from the Carpathians in a northerly direction before the army Boroewic, and was even compelled to give up the attempts of keeping the Wislok line owing to the ever increasing pursuit carried out by the Allied. The attacks carried out on 9th and 10th May against the army Mackensen, were only



inaugurated with the object of stemming the retreat on the long Carpathian front. Near Sanok, the Russians hastily brought up two mixed divisions, with which they proceeded on 9th and 10th May, against Besko and the hills situated there, while a little further North, one division to which two regiments from the garrison of Przemyśl had been added, made a counter-attack against the Austro-Hungarian troops. The result of latter in the direction of Krosno was a complete failure, in the course of which one of the regiments from Przemyśl lost 1,800 prisoners and 20 machine guns. The Russian attacks on Besko ended with a very heavy Russian defeat.

When the first assault had been beaten off and 500 dead Russians lay before the front, General Emmich's troops proceeded to attack.

The Russians now began a hasty retreat in the direction of Sanok, hotly pursued by the allied cavalry, the results of which proved excellent. The Russians surrendered at many points, principally on the heights and in the woods to the South of Besko. The field of battle here presented a gruesome picture on the following days. The well built out Russian entrenchments dragged out in incessant lines, while in each of these hundreds of holes, guns with fixed bayonets and on the parapets reversed rifles could be seen stuck, in on the stocks of which white rags were fastened. In this manner whole battalions capitulated, 6,200 prisoners, 6 guns, 7 ammunition carts falling into the hands of the victorious allied troops.

The Russians were now in full retreat towards the Lower San. The entire VIII. Russian army evacuated the Carpathians and to the North of the Vistula the Russians were retreating from the Nida in an eastern direction. The effects of the successful "break" were now being felt on a front of more than 300 kilometres.

Dimitriew's Defeat.

While the adjoining armies were able to carry out their retreat in comparative order, the disbandment of the remnants of the decisively beaten army, commanded by Radko Dimitriew had reached a high degree. In the greatest disorder, what remained rolled back in a north-easterly direction. The 49th Russian division was only able to save 4 of its guns and a Caucasian division brought back but nine of its 36 cannons. Apart from this, the Russian units were altogether disorganized, as the leadership and connections of the units with one another had completely failed. The right wing of the army, commanded by the Archduke Joseph Ferdinand, took note of 51 different Russian regiments on one of the days of pursuit. On the evening of 10th May, the entire number of prisoners captured by the Allied in West-Galicia, had exceeded 100,000, while the number of guns was estimated at 80, and the machine guns more than 250.

IV.

The Battle of Gorlice-Tarnow.

On the evening of 4th May, the penetration was accomplished in a tactic sense. In spite of numerous reserves being thrown in and all preparations, which had been made for a second, third, and fourth line of defence, the enemy was defeated and in full retreat across the Wisloka. As can be seen from the official Russian report, the troops were greatly shaken owing to the exceptional effects of the Allies' heavy artillery. On the morning of 5th May, the airmen, whose cooperation and untiring exertions gave special assistance to the leadership, and whose activity was favoured by the bright May sun, reported that the enemy was retreating along all the roads from Jaslo towards the North and East. Columns retreating in great disorder were to be seen everywhere. In Jaslo itself, the bridges were on fire and the railway bridges at Ropa and Wisloka blown up. It was clear that the enemy had not the strength to defend the Wisloka line any longer. The failure to keep this line, would have serious consequences for the adjoining Russian troops, whose positions in the northern sector of Hungary must thereby be rendered untenable. The strategic effects of the piercing must now be felt, and the withdrawal of the Russian troops on the Carpathian front as far as the Lupkow ridge be the fruit to fall into the hands of the victors. Did the enemy attempt to delay his retreat, then the rear connections could be cut off, as well as those existing with the troops situated in the mountains.

Early in the morning we got telegraphic reports from the neighbouring army, commanded by General Boroewic von Bojna, that the enemy troops that had been opposed to him, had started to withdraw on the night of 4th May and that they were in a hasty retreat on the whole front, at some points in such disorder that it resembled a flight. The third Austrian army took up the pursuance of the enemy, and General von Emmich commanding the extreme right wing of the Mackensen army, led his troops (who thanks to the hasty Russian retreat from the Wisloka bridge had suffered no casualties), up to Jasiolka to the North of Dukla, so that his canons were able to open fire on the town of Dukla and the streets leading to the Pass on the same evening, thereby cutting off all rear connections for the enemy.

While the Hannoverians and Bavarians kept a watch on the Carpathians, so that nothing should escape towards the North, Russian troops busily engaged in throwing up entrenchments, were situated to the rear of the Germans. The centre and left wing of the Mackensen army approached the Wisloka on this day, fighting against enemy rear-guards. On 6th May, the main forces succeeded in crossing the river. The enemy endeavoured to oppose the Prussian Guards taking possession of the hills on the right bank, but in a counter attack, the victors captured 15 field guns and 2

heavy guns. The Guards alone had taken 12,000 prisoners, 3 guns and 45 machine guns. In close cooperation with Mackensen, the troops commanded by the Arch-Duke Joseph Ferdinand effected a crossing of the Wisloka on 6th May. The X. Austrian Division, commanded by General von Mecenseffy, which had already greatly distinguished itself, was successful in capturing the town of Brzostek on 7th May, after bitter and violent street fighting, as the Russians there offered obstinate resistance. The centre and left wing of the Austrian army threw the enemy out of various rear positions, which were bitterly contested, and continued their advance. The troops commanded by the Arch-Duke had captured 16,000 prisoners, 6 guns and 31 machine guns by the evening of this day.

V.

The Capture of Jaroslau.

When Prince Radko Dimitriew, the defeated Russian General, had lost 140,000 prisoners and almost 100 guns and 300 machine-guns in the course of the fighting, in which the Russian lines were penetrated and the pursuit which followed up to the 12th of May, he commanded a retreat along the Lower San, which was to be defended and held at all costs as far as Przemyśl. According to reports made by officer prisoners, the troops were to take up a position on the western bank of the river, which was to be held at all costs. An army order commanded attacks which were to be carried out against the enemy at different points. Such a plan of defence was probably possible from a theoretical point of view, as the Russians had consolidated their positions and built out strong bridge-heads in the course of the last few months on the Vistula-San sector near Sieniawa, Jaroslau and Radymno. But the events showed that the order was impossible in a practical sense.

The troops were so severely shaken and thrown into such confusion owing to the defeat and hasty retreat, that it was only possible to offer passive resistance on the San. Our troops advancing against this river, continually came across stragglers and batches of various units from the Russian front, and the accounts given by these prisoners were unanimous in their admission that the Russian leaders were endeavouring to form fresh units without any regard to precedence or their former military activity.—Reinforcements were brought up by rail from wherever it seemed possible to remove them to the Lower San, so that the pursuers were to be opposed by no less than 23 different infantry divisions. But Prince Radko Dimitriew seemed to have lost confidence in the power of opposition and resistance, of a large part of the troops that had been employed at Gorlice-Tarnow and removed the units which had suffered most severely far beyond the San. Our airmen on 12th and 13th May reported that long columns of Russians were marching from the Lower San towards East and North East.



The Russian atrocities in Memel: The picture shows a Memel citizen, Michel Kurmis, 63 years of age, who was cruelly murdered in Memel on 19th March 1915 at 9 o'clock in the morning, the hordes having cut off his right hand before finishing their cruel work.



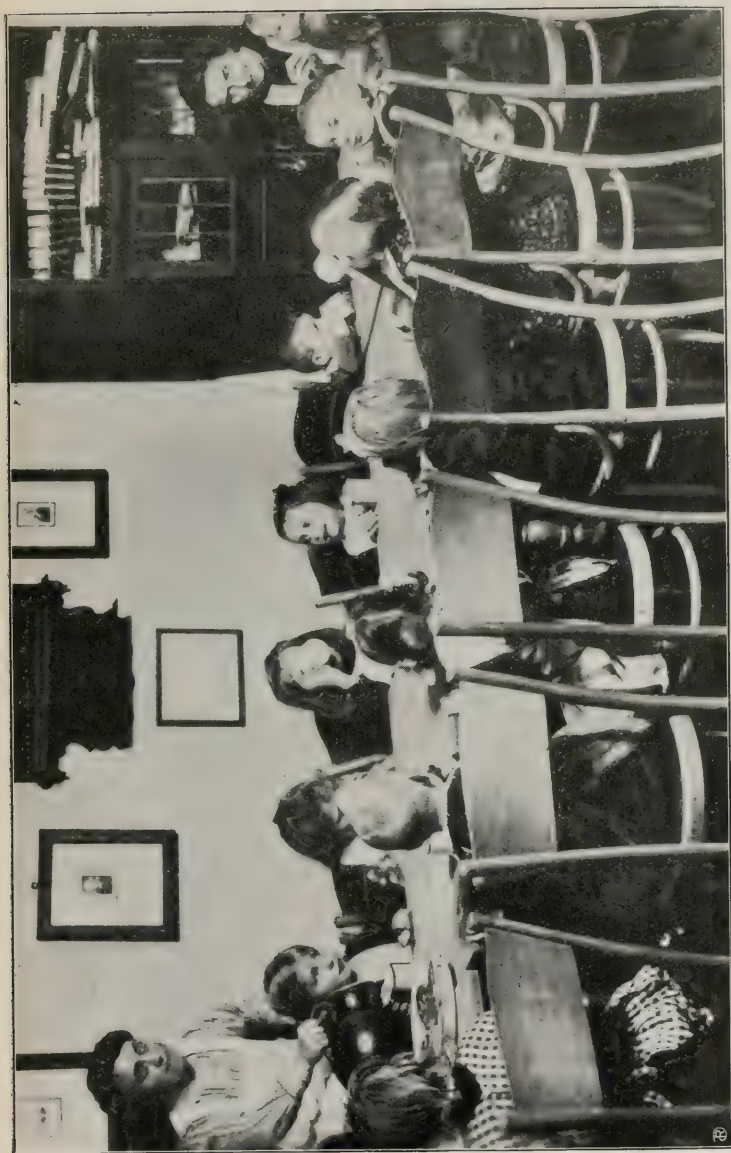
The Russian atrocities in Memel: In the front one of the inhabitants of Memel, whose eyes had been pierced out. The photograph was taken on 25th March 1915.



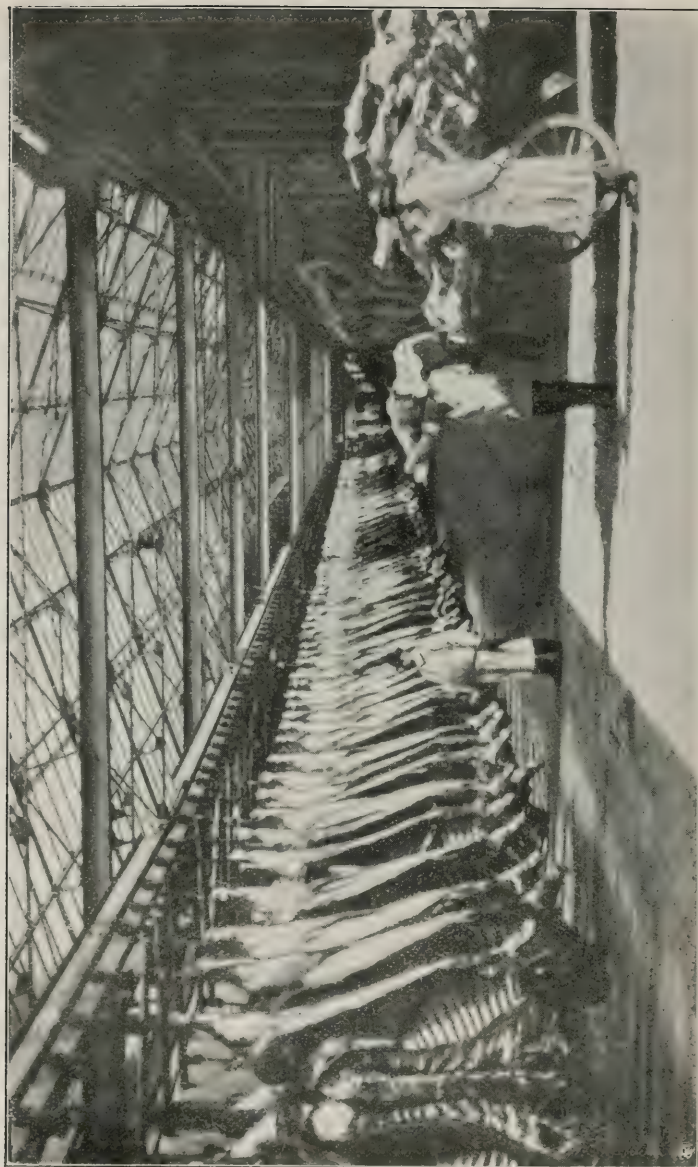
The Russian atrocities in Memel: Farmer Zippel with his workmen, who was murdered by the Russians. Photograph taken on 25th March 1915.



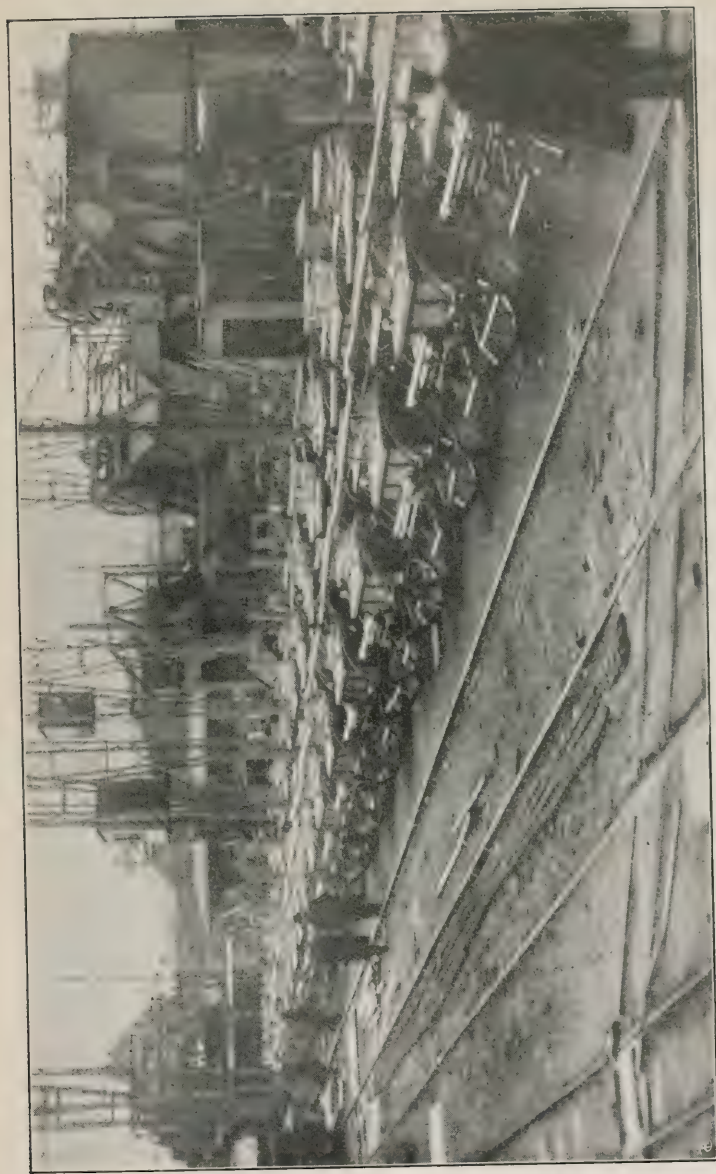
The Russian atrocities in Memel: Some of the victims being buried by Russian prisoners,
Photograph taken on 25th March 1915.



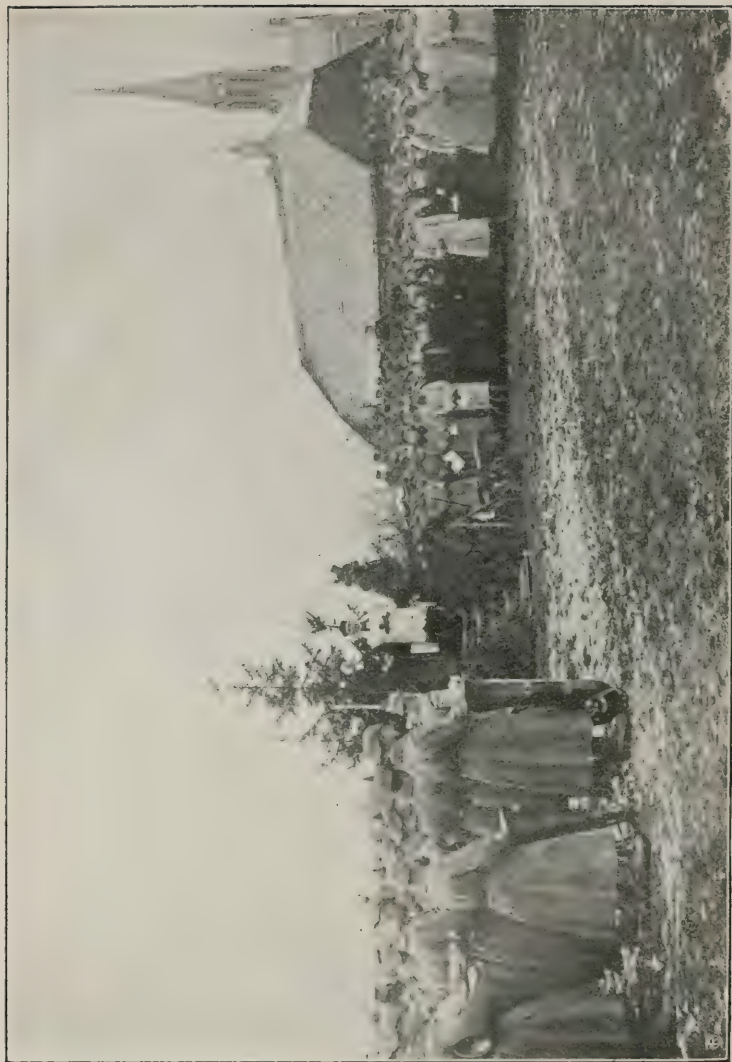
Home for German soldiers' children in Berlin-Friedenau. The children at breakfast.



The victualing of Germany. A glance at the cold storage in Lübeck. This picture shows (and similar pictures can be seen in several towns) that it is nonsense to believe in a scarcity of meat in Germany. Picture taken end of April 1915.



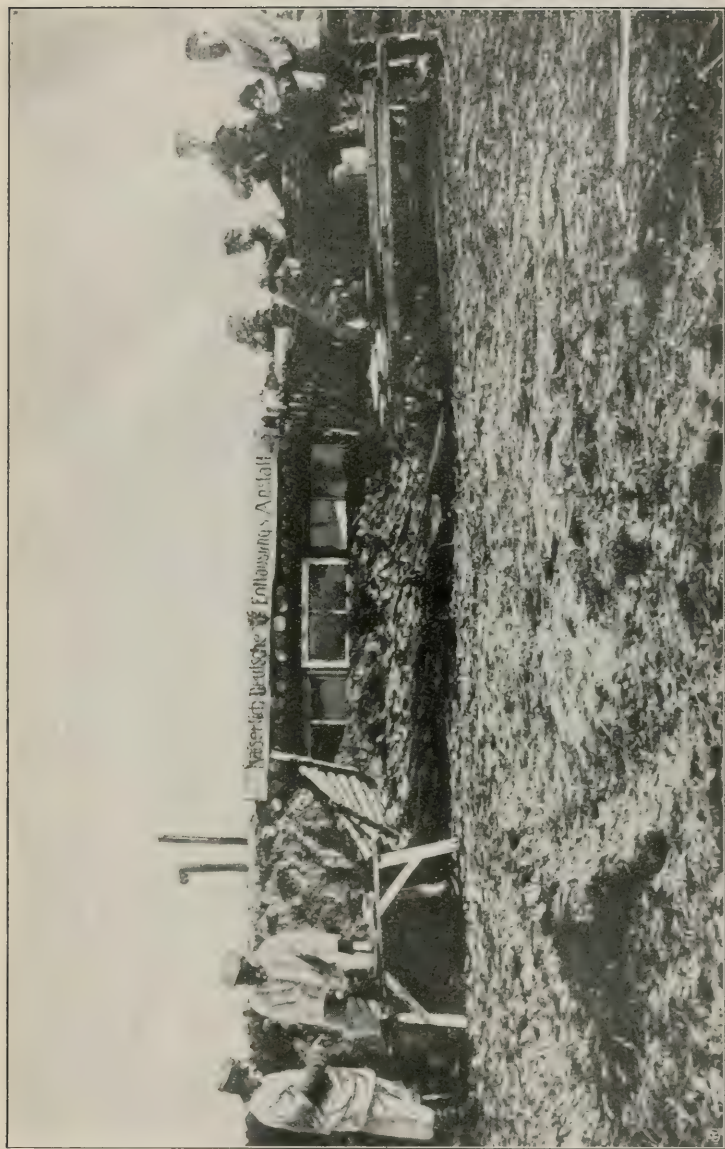
Collection of "Gulaschkanonen" in the port of Hamburg. A Hamburg industrial Company has occupied itself with the production of "Gulaschkanonen" on a large scale and been greatly appreciated.



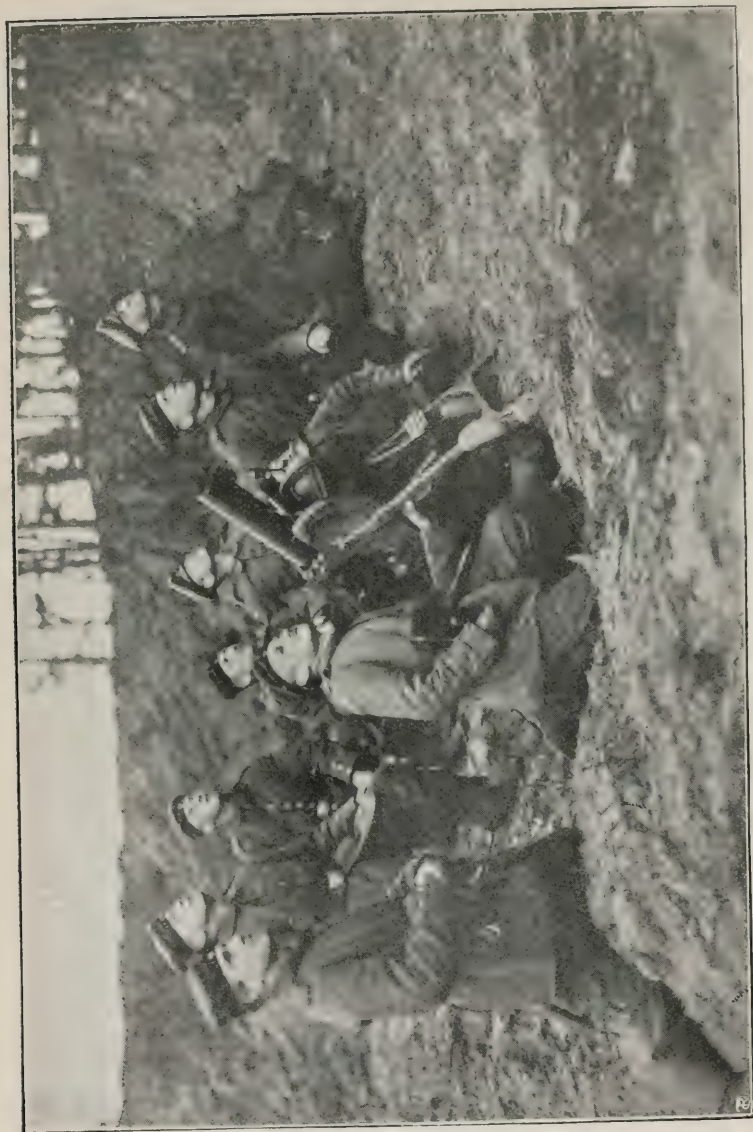
German soldiers at Divine Service. It can be seen how the Protestant and Catholic Clergymen carry on service side by side.



German work behind the front in Poland. A former gardener from "Schloss Sanssouci" in Potsdam putting a farm in order that had been devastated by the Cossaks. Asparagus beds being dug by fatigue troops, who are relieved from the front every three days. The vine at the house being tied up, the beds planted, rose trees pruned, etc.



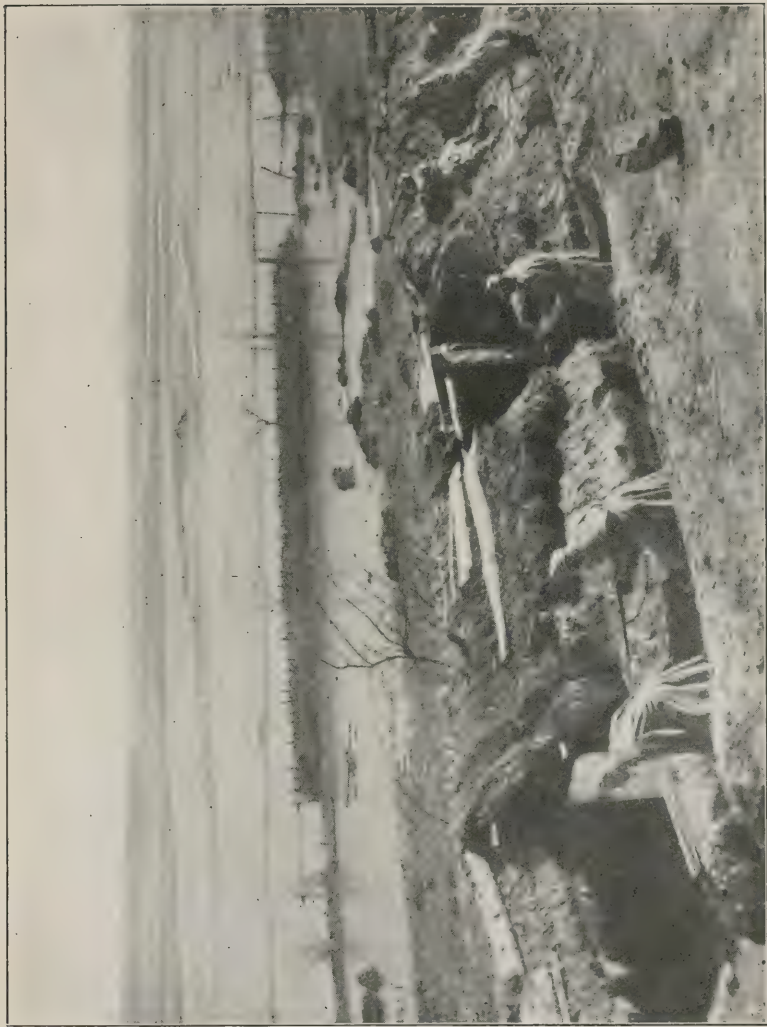
A German subterranean institute for the destruction of vermin at Ossowiez. Hitherto the German troops have had to suffer great hardships, owing to the unhygienic Russian conditions, especially from lice, so that a systematic campaign against this plague, ably assisted by "Institutes for the destruction of vermin," such as shown above, has been a great boon. These institutions have done a great deal towards preventing the spread of spotted typhus.



Shooting at enemy airmen. An enemy air machine being taken to task.



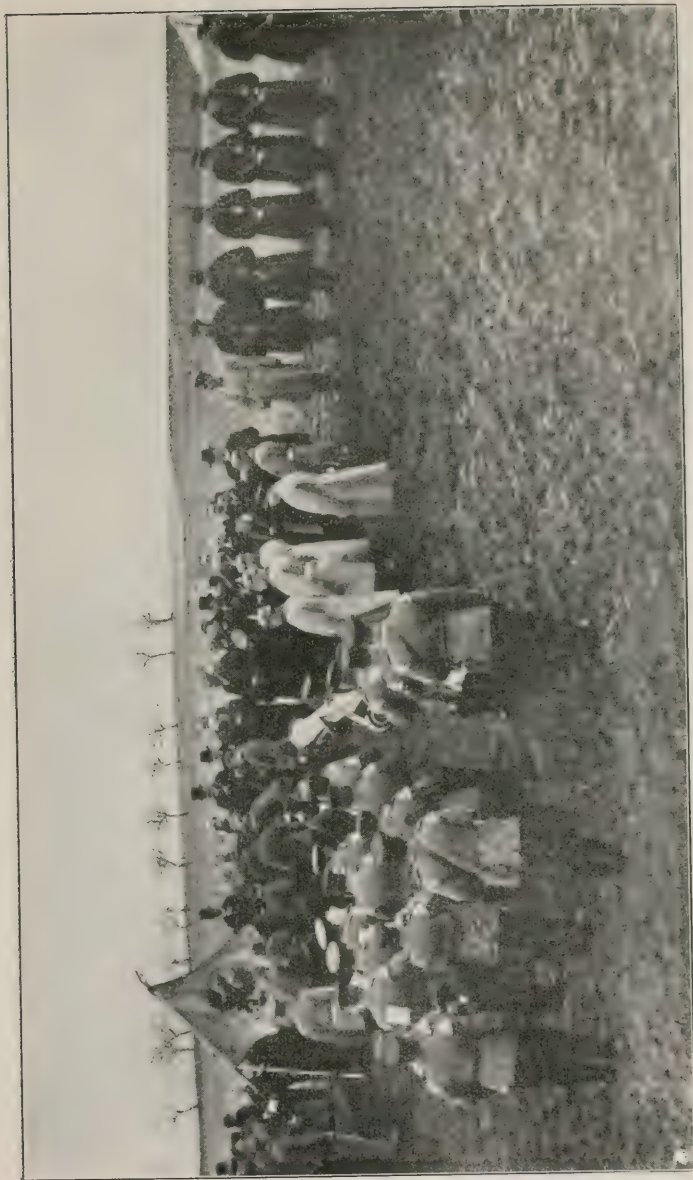
German soldiers with hand-grenades in the trenches near the Dunajec.



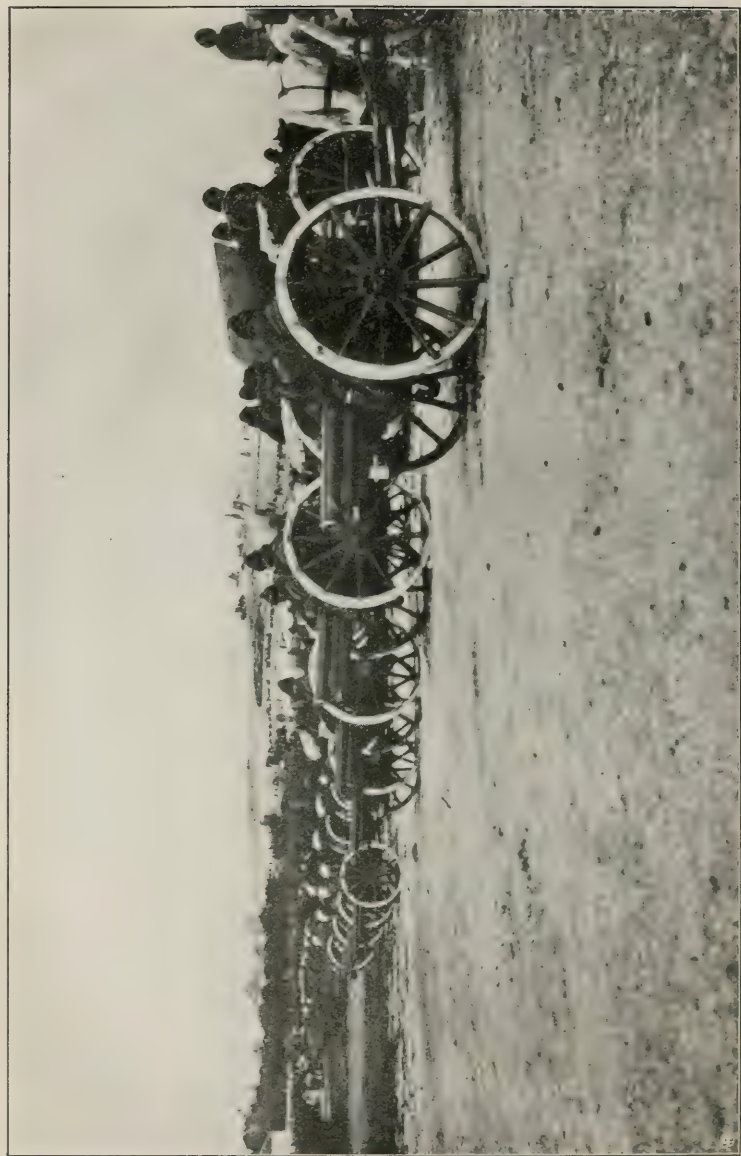
Our positions with entrenchments at a river in eastern Galicia.



Funeral of two French officers in Torgau. The picture was taken at the end of April 1915 and shows that the enemy officers, who have died in German captivity, are always buried with full military honours.



Burial of an English prisoner. The picture shows an English prisoner's (private) funeral with all military honours, i. e. accompanied by several officers, military music, a veterans' deputation, soldiers, as well as his own comrades, bearing him to his last rest.



Turkish artillery leaving Jerusalem.

Thus the task of maintaining the San line and especially the bridge-head at Jaroslau, upon which the Russian army leaders appeared to lay special stress, fell to the lot of the newly arrived reinforcements. On 14th May, the Allied while cutting off Przemyśl from the South, advanced along the whole San line to within easy distance of the river and its bridge-head and began the attack on Jaroslau. The enemy had consolidated his positions and the heights of the West of the town, so that they almost looked like fortresses. The carefully prepared entrenchments stretched in large curves from the river to the western suburbs, creamery and castle belonging to Count von Schimienski, and through the park as far as the Jupajowka height, which points form the key to the position. Some regiments of the Prussian Guards and the VI. Austro-Hungarian Army Corps had the satisfaction of capturing the town and bridge-head of Jaroslau. The Russian defenders comprised the 62nd Division, supported by parts of the 41st and 45th Divisions that had been brought up to occupy the fortifications which they endeavoured to consolidate by hastily erecting wire obstacles. After a two day's battle, the Guards captured the town of Jaroslau from the enemy troops, forcing them to retire beyond the river. The Elisabeth and Alexander Regiments assisted by Austro-Hungarian troops made a night-assault on the creamery and castle, as well as the magnificent park, the splendid old trees therein falling like matchwood under the shells, while of the extensive castle buildings but a heap of ruins and ashes remained.

The Austrian Line-regiment 56 and the Honveds were successful in capturing the crest of the Jupajowka height. In the course of this fighting about 4,000 unwounded Russians were taken prisoners, while some single regiments—for instance the 247th were almost entirely decimated and do not exist anymore.

On the evening of 15th May, Jaroslau and the whole bridge-head were in the hands of the Allied. The town with its old Polish Renaissance buildings and magnificent new Church in Byzantine style had suffered but slight damage. The Russians burnt the bridges on their retreat, having also set fire to the railway station.

Lies in the Russian Report.

The Russian General Staff makes the following statement, dated 12th May:

During the course of the past weeks, official German authorities have reported on the war-like activity on our front, facts which do not agree with the truth. The Germans maintain that in the fighting at Libau 12 guns were captured, whereas the entire artillery section engaged there does not count more than four. To the East of Rossienie, the enemy did not only not cause us the casualties which he publishes, but did not achieve the slightest success.

considered on the whole. It is not we, who have been put to full retreat, as the German Army Administration reports, but the enemy sections, that were obliged to retreat before our attacks on a front extending from 10—15 Verst. The enemy further states that he has repulsed our attacks at Kalwarja, Augustowo, and Praszynsz under heavy losses for us. We have made no attacks on this front, where the enemy made slight attacks at Wach Jednorozek and the creamery of Pomiany. These attacks were partly demonstrations and partly with the object of regaining lost *points d'appui*.

As to the fighting in Galicia, it must be admitted that with the exception of the unsuccessful enemy attempt to surround our 48th Division, events here have taken on a character of frontal attacks for the past few days, the enemy advancing towards our fortified positions, which we are occupying by degrees. Our casualties are considerable, but those of the enemy enormous. It is obvious that the enemy tries to make his success appear more important by multiplying the number of prisoners taken, among whom are numerous wounded, which owing to the gradual withdrawal of our troops had to be left behind.

The enemy apparently has an object in influencing public opinion in his own country and the neutral States with his official reports, which are all more or less of an advertisement character.

German Main Headquarters sends the following reply to this:

Two official Russian reports of 12th May, dare, probably for the benefit of public opinion in the neutral States, to diminish the success of the allied German and Austro-Hungarian armies. We cannot refrain from giving a little explanation of these attempts, which seem all the more impudent and extraordinary, when we recall the fact that to-day, 12 days after the allied troops attacked the Russian positions at Gorlice-Tarnow, their battalions are 150 kilometres further East on the Lower San, standing before Jaroslau, Przemysl and Dobromil, and the entire Russian Carpathian Army is in flight towards the North-East on a front of more than 120 kilometres in breadth. It is especially interesting to note that the commander of the 48th Infantry Division, specially referred to in one report as worthy of mention, is on his way towards Central-Austria since yesterday, having been taken prisoner by convoys, who were with an ammunition column.

More than a Million Russian Prisoners.

Main Headquarters sends us the following:

Abroad, our losses at Ypres, Arras, and in Galicia are exaggerated in a most unaccountable manner. Casualty numbers have been published, which exceed the number of troops at our disposal, in one case is even double. We can make but one reply to all these false assertions, the object of which is so obvious that it needs

no discussion: Our lists of casualties, compiled as they are with German thoroughness and exactness give our nation a clear view of the situation. Our opponents however mystify their losses, not owning up to the truth even to their own people, owing to their fear of the actual facts being known. In Russia for instance, the report is spread that the entire losses amount to 500,000 men. In reality, Germany has 5,261 officers and 530,000 men in captivity, and Austria-Hungary 1,900 officers and 360,000 men, making a total of 7,161 officers, 890,000 men. To this number we may add at least 140,000 prisoners that were taken in the recent battles and who have not yet been transported to the Home Authorities, so that the number of one million has already been exceeded.

The Fighting at Ypres.

Main Headquarters sends us the following account:

Since the violent fighting of October 1914, operations in West Flanders on the Yser Canal, as well as the entire western front, had taken the form of a "position war," which was only now and then interrupted by unimportant attacks on either side, without having any effect on the general situation.

The entrenchments of both opponents stretched from the North Sea along the Yser Canal as far as Steenstraate (8 kilometres to the North of Ypres) on the western bank of which our troops succeeded in gaining a footing at several different points between the coast and Dixmuiden, as well as at Drie Grachten (between Dixmuiden and Ypres). Between Steenstraate and Oosthoek (4 kilometres to the South of Ypres) the enemy position projected like a wedge across the Canal towards the East, as far as the road Passchendaele-Becelaere, comprising a territory, the principle connections of which were concentrated in Ypres.

Some straggling enemy entrenchments stretched from Steenstraate towards the East, beyond Langemarck as far as Poelcappelle, which was in the hands of the Germans; to the West of this village taking a turn towards the South-East, thus forming a curve between Wallemolen and Passchendaele towards the South, and continuing along the Mosselmart-Brootseinde-Becelaere road where at a distance of 2 kilometres South-East of Zonnebeke it turned towards South-East, ending at Oosthoek on the western bank of the Canal. These lines that were occupied by French, English, and various coloured Colonial troops, were situated opposite the German positions at varying distances, but for the most part the intervening space was inconsiderable.

The territory occupied by these troops, is intersected by several low hills and valleys, thickly studded with straggling hamlets, farms, woods, parks, and hedges, which together with the vastness of the country present great difficulties for the leaders of troops. Artillery

observance is only possible from elevated points such as church towers, wind-mills, etc., and even from these elevations the view is but limited, owing to the thickly wooded character of the ground and thick hazy atmosphere, which lies like a veil across the horizon. To these local difficulties may be attributed the enemy's tenacity in keeping his tactically unfavourable positions, from which he has now been forced, and his obstinate and bitter resistance to the German offensive begun in April.

For a long time, the German Army Administration had planned taking advantage of the enemy's unfavourable position, for an attack to the East of Ypres. If the enemy were forced back from his projecting positions towards or even across the Canal, the front would be shortened and that portion of Belgium, which was still in the hands of the enemy, diminished. Besides this, the moral



effect of such an attack would be of considerable importance after the long period of inactivity in the trenches.

The troops commanded by His Royal Highness, Duke Albrecht von Württemberg, that were situated on the Yser, could however only proceed to carry out these operations when they disposed of the necessary forces. The enemy thus pressed from North, East, and South could not possibly resist an attack carried out in sufficient strength; the German troops situated to the North and South of Ypres, were nearer the Canal crossings than the most advanced enemy positions. Operations were therefore based on this situation. The main attack had to be directed against the basis of the enemy position formed by the Yser Canal, so as to ensure the cutting off of the sector to the East of Ypres, occupied by the enemy, thereby endangering their rear-connections. To the South of Ypres, the German positions had been advanced to within 4 kilometres of the town, while in the North, they were situated at more than

double that distance, so that the attack seemed more favourable from this direction. The object was to occupy the enemy as long as possible on the eastern sector, and for this reason the main attack should not advance too far towards the East, while the remaining forces had the task of occupying the enemy. Such was the trend of ideas for the offensive inaugurated on 22nd April.

The German Advance.

On this day, preparations had been ended, which were necessary for the difficult task of attacking the defenders situated in consolidated positions, and who were expected to put up an obstinate resistance. At 6 o'clock in the evening, our troops pressed forward on the line Steenstraate-Langemarck. The enemy, who was completely taken by surprise, evacuated the first and second positions, which were situated 30—500 yards from our front, fleeing towards the West across the Canal and to the South, while the artillery did its utmost to stem the pursuing Germans. When night fell, the attacking troops had formed a line reaching from Steenstraate-Het Sas, to within 2 kilometres to the South-West of Pilkem and here branching off towards the East in the direction of Kersselaere as far as the old positions of the adjoining sector. It was only at Steenstraate that the enemy offered obstinate resistance, in spite of which our troops succeeded in capturing the place by the evening, and here as well as at Het Sas gaining ground at some points on the left bank of the Canal. The tactical result of the first day of the battle was that we had gained ground on a front of 9 kilometres and a depth of 3 kilometres, while the blind sector was subjected to pressure, which greatly endangered an exit, as well as having taken firm hold of two new positions on the western bank of the Canal. The enemy was kept occupied on the rest of the front at the same time.

It was to be expected that the Allies would make an attempt at regaining their lost ground. The fighting which began on 23rd April, can be recorded as a series of attempts to force the German from their new positions, so as to free their rear connections and regain command of the western bank of the Canal, so as to threaten the German main attack in the rear. The task allotted to the German troops, was not only to maintain the positions they had gained, but by taking advantage of every favourable opportunity to advance as far as possible in a southerly direction, thus drawing the ring around the enemy closer. Up to the 2nd May, fighting was particularly violent on the Canal and the Passchendaele-Broodseinde road. The hostile counter-attacks had begun on 23rd April, but on this day, the enemy appeared to have but meagre forces at his disposal. Two attacks carried out independently by two French regiments and an English battalion collapsed before our consolidated positions. The attacks were directed towards the western sector of our front in

recognition of the fact that from there the greatest danger threatened. On the following day, fighting extended further East, but the most violent attacks were again brought to bear on the western sector, against which the enemy artillery was enabled to make a flank attack from the left bank of the Canal. The bitter fighting during the course of which both sides attacked and defended may best be described as single fights on a front disconnected at many points owing to the character of the country.

It is unnecessary to give a detailed description of the fighting that took place up to 2nd May, which was obstinate and varying owing to the forces employed by the attackers, the enemy but seldom proceeding to a concentrated attack. Reinforcements were brought up estimated at something like two English and one or two French divisions. On 24th April, an English division was repulsed, suffering exceptionally heavy losses, while on 25th, five English battalions were annihilated to the last man, mown down by machine guns. On 26th April, the strongest attack was carried out by an Army Corps between the Pilkem road, Ypres and St. Julien, but was repulsed with great losses, 2,000 English being killed. An attack on the Canal on the following day had not any better success. The English made attempt to advance from an eastern point near Broodseinde, while a strong, but unsuccessful French attack on our western sector represents the last enemy attempts to advance from the position to which he was forced on 23rd April, and which he had to evacuate on 2nd May.

In spite of the enormous losses which this fighting entailed—from 23rd April until 1st May—besides thousands of killed and wounded, 5,000 prisoners and 65 guns being taken (latter included 4 heavy English cannons and other war material) the Allied did not regain a yard of the territory they had lost on 22nd April. On the other hand our troops had succeeded in advancing their lines towards St. Julien to the North-West of Gravenstafel. The German artillery fire, which swept the enemy front and rear connections incessantly day and night, was most effective, reaching even as far as Poperinghe, which is 12 kilometers beyond Ypres.

Our south wing batteries, after the success of 22nd April were able to subject the troops directed against our northern wing to their fire. The entire space, occupied by the enemy, was taken under fire from three sides and its effects could be seen by the numerous conflagrations. Ypres was on fire.

The enemy had recognized the seriousness of the situation, as is shown by his desperate attacks carried out as they were, regardless of losses. Reports that the heavy artillery was being removed from the "sack" and a bridge-head constructed at the extreme East of Ypres were proofs that the Allied had to reckon with the loss of their advanced position, possibly even that of the entire eastern Canal bank.

On the Canal, between Steenstraate and Het Sas, independent contests apart from the above described had developed, connected only by mutual artillery support against the enemy flank batteries on the western bank of the Canal. When on the night of 22nd April, our troops gained ground on the left bank, their first task was to build out the new positions on a connecting line. But the enemy did all in his power to oppose this. On the night of 23rd of April, severe fighting took place, especially to the West of Steenstraate, where our troops took the village of Lizerne by assault. Every foot of ground was gained only by violent hand-to-hand fighting and the losses were severe on both sides. An advance across the Canal at Boesinghe so as to gain a broad base on the western bank was impossible, as the enemy had destroyed the bridges.

The advance across the Canal however gave the enemy an opportunity of bringing up important reinforcements the following days against the comparatively weak German line. Our troops had a hard time, opposed to the energetic enemy attacks that began on 26th April. The village of Lizerne was the main object, which owing to its advanced position presented a good target for the enemy batteries, that subjected the place to such a concentrated fire that we resolved to evacuate it on the night of 26th April and withdraw the troops to the well fortified bridge-head on the same bank of the Canal. On 28th April, weak enemy troops succeeded in penetrating a small part of our front near Het Sas, they were however soon repulsed by reserves that had hastily been brought up. On the repetition of this attack, the enemy attempted by means of a simultaneous advance carried out by Turkos and Zuaves, to relieve the frontal attack on the eastern bank of the Canal. During the first week of May, the lively activity of the French infantry against our positions diminished, the enemy restricting himself principally to artillery fighting, as the development of the situation in the "sack" to the East of Ypres demanded his entire attention.

From the description of the fighting up to 2nd May, it can be seen, that the enemy undertook the attacks, the fruitlessness of which on the whole, and the violent manner in which they were repulsed, being relied upon to weaken and shake him, whereby the continuation of the German attack was being favourably supported.

The 2nd May was the day selected for this. On this evening the attack was inaugurated on the entire North, North-East front; in the West making progress South of St. Julien in the sector between the wood situated to the West of the village and the Lange-marck-Zonnebeke road. Before night-fall we had gained territory to the extent of almost $1\frac{1}{2}$ kilometres here, reaching as far as the Mosselmarkt-Fortuin road. The bitter hand-to-hand fighting, which took place at latter, ending with victory for the Germans. On both sides of this strip, obstinate fighting likewise developed, in the

course of which our troops gained ground but slowly. But in spite of violent counter-attacks carried out by the enemy, our line pressed forward on 3rd May. A gallant assault, carried out by Württemberg and Saxon battalions, captured the strongly fortified wood to the North of Gravenstafel from the English which formed the corner of the enemy North and East front. The trenches filled with English corpses, are a proof of the gallant resistance offered by the enemy.

The strong pressure, which the support of the entire artillery brought to bear, had the desired effect on the enemy's plans. The "sack," in which they were situated, gradually became narrower, and a further advance of the Germans would increase the danger threatening to cut off the units that had been pushed forward towards the East. Already on the evening of 2nd May, our airmen had reported that small batches were seen marching towards the West and the construction of the enemy bridge-head to the East of Ypres. Behind the enemy lines, all was remarkably quiet.

On the night of 3rd May, the enemy began to retreat, leaving positions on the whole North-East and South front between Fortuin, Broodseinde, Klein-Zillebeke, on a front of 15 kilometres and a depth varying from $\frac{1}{2}$ —3 kilometres to our troops. There were sights which had not been seen for a long time, when our rifles followed by close formations, enlivened the Flemish landscape, long lines of artillery, ammunition and reserves, taking up their positions in the English evacuated ones. The whole country showed signs of our destructive methods of warfare.

In the West and Centre sections of their North front, and in the West of their South front, the Allied defended their positions with the most obstinate resistance, so as to cover the retreat of the other forces. These latter took up their positions on the line Fortuin-Frezenberg-Elsternest—on the east edge of the wood, situated to the East of Zillebeke, and here a new fighting section was entered into.

The territory held by the enemy to the East of the Canal, which up to 22nd April, extended on a front of 25 kilometres and a depth of 9 kilometres has shrunk to a breadth of 13 kilometres and is but 5 kilometres in depth. The "sack" has become considerably narrow and is exposed to the concentrated effects of the German artillery even more than hitherto.

The "Defensive" on the Eastern Front.

A French Army Order.

Main Headquarters, 16th May.

According to our wont, when French attacks of importance have taken place, we reproduce the French Army Order for the offensive now in progress to the North of Arras:

(Translation.)

X. Army, 33rd Corps.

After a campaign of 9 months, seven of which have been spent in the trenches, the moment has arrived in which we must make a final effort to pierce the enemy line and—in expectation of better things—repulse the Germans from our national territory. The moment is favourable and the army has never been stronger nor animated by a better morale. The enemy, as a consequence of his violent attacks carried out in the first months, has now been reduced to a defence on his west and eastern front—and the neutral powers are only waiting for a sign of success from us to take up arms and march with us.

The enemy can only have command of some divisions, as opposed to us. Numerically we are four times stronger, and our artillery is more powerful than any, which has yet appeared on any battle-field. To-day there is no question of making a *coup de main* or taking a trench. We must endeavour to defeat the enemy definitely, and for this reason carry out an attack with extreme violence and a pursuit, regardless of fatigue, hunger, thirst, or privations. We shall have achieved nothing until the enemy be definitely defeated. For this reason it is necessary that all—officers, sub-officers, and men—be convinced that when the order to attack is given until its final success, that the moment has come in which our country demands our utmost courage, energy, and sacrifice.

The General, commanding the 33rd Army Corps.

Signed: Petain.

Chief of the General Staff (Name illegible).

The account of the German Defensive on the Eastern front is particularly interesting.

Head Army Administration.

10. armée 33^{me} corps d'armée état-major.

Après 9 mois de campagne, dont 7 mois passés dans les tranchées, il est temps de faire un effort définitif de rompre la ligne ennemie et de rejeter tout d'abord les Allemands hors du territoire national, en attendant mieux. Le moment est opportun, l'armée n'a jamais été plus forte et animée d'un moral plus élevé. L'ennemi, après ses attaques violentes des premiers mois, est maintenant réduit à la défensive sur son front occidental — comme sur son front oriental — et les nations neutres attendent pour marcher que nous leurs en donnions le signal par un succès. L'ennemi ne paraît avoir devant nous que quelques divisions. Notre effectif est quadruple du sien et nous disposons d'une artillerie formidable telle qu'une n'en a jamais parue sur le champ de bataille. Il ne s'agit plus aujourd'hui de faire un coup de main ou de prendre une tranchée. Il s'agit de battre l'ennemie et pour cela de l'attaquer avec une violence extrême et

de le poursuivre avec une ténacité et un acharnement sans égal, sans compter avec la fatigue, la faim, la soif, ou la souffrance. Rien ne sera fait quand l'ennemi ne sera pas définitivement battu. Que chacun, officiers, sous-officiers et soldats soient donc bien persuadés, quand l'ordre d'attaque soit donné et jusqu'au succès final, que le moment est venu de toutes les audaces, de toutes les énergies et de tous les sacrifices pour la patrie.

Le général commandant le 33 corps d'armée.

Signé: Petain.

Le chef d'état-major (nom . . .).

Three Days of Russian Reign in Memel.

On 17th March, the Czar's troops penetrated the most northern point of East Prussia and proceeded burning and pillaging on their march towards Memel. The ruins of burnt houses, pillaged farms and villages still mark the way of the Russian hordes. On 19th March, Memel, which the German Landsturm-troops vainly endeavoured to defend, was occupied. Some of the inhabitants had been successful in fleeing before the enemy arrived, but a few managing to save their property. The remainder of the population was at the mercy of the tyranny and unchecked cruelty of the Russian Soldateska, who pillaged shops and dwellings, stole whatever was left by those who had fled and destroyed whatever they could. The unfortunate inhabitants were carried off as prisoners, while women and girls were subjected to the low passions of the soldiers and whoever attempted to defend his own or his friend's life or honour from cruelty and lust, was at once mown down.

For three days this state of affairs lasted, until the German reinforcements that were brought up, succeeded in freeing the town after a short fight to the South and bitter street fighting. 3,000 inhabitants that had been carried off by the Russians, were freed by the German troops.

Whoever did not witness these scenes, with the ruined houses and corpses, cannot picture the misery and sorrow brought over Memel during these three days. Human phantasy is too weak to describe the torture and brutality practised by the Russian soldiers on the defenceless victims of the attacked town.

The following pictures that were taken immediately after the Russians' exit, form an incontestable proof of how the Russian soldiers, filled with the desire for revenge and murder, slaughtered human beings and mutilated the dead.

W a r J o u r n a l.

May 1.

The enemy defeated with heavy losses on the west bank of the Canal to the north-west of Ypres. Dunkirk under artillery fire.

Progress in the fighting at Szawle, from where the Russians fled, after having set the place on fire. The enemy is being followed in the direction of Mitau.

The Allied attempts at landing at the Gulf of Saros completely foiled.

May 2.

Enemy attacks on our positions at Ypres collapsed. Our bombardment of Dunkirk over-land appears to puzzle our opponents.

In the Argonnes, successful attacks to the North of Le Four de Paris. Between the Meuse and the Moselle, strong French attacks collapsed in Bois-le-Prêtre, the enemy suffering heavy losses.

Our operations in north-west Russia progressing favourably. In the course of pursuit, our advanced troops reached the territory south-west of Mitau. In the vicinity of Kalwarja, Russian attacks were repulsed, the enemy suffering exceptionally heavy losses.

In Russian Poland, the enemy thrown out of some of their advanced positions. Austro-Hungarian troops advanced as far as the enemy main positions at some points.

From the submarine war. The steamer "Edale" torpedoed by a German submarine off the Scilly Isles.

At the Dardanelles, an Anglo-Australian submarine sunk by Turkish warships on attempting to enter the Sea of Marmara.

May 3.

Great victory of the allied German and Austro-Hungarian troops in West-Galicia. The entire Russian front broken from the Hungarian frontier to the confluence of the Dunajec and the Vistula. The enemy fleeing towards the East. 10,000 prisoners and a quantity of war materials captured.

In Flanders, to the north-east of Ypres, two more farms taken.

In the East, four more guns and four machine guns captured from the Russians, who are being pursued in the direction of Riga. To the south of Mitau. 1,700 Russians taken prisoners, which makes the entire number of prisoners 3,200.

From the air war. A German air flotilla carried out (on 2nd inst.) a successful attack on the railway and airship hangar at Epinal. A German naval airship sunk an English submarine by means of bombs in the North Sea.

From the naval war. In the course of an outpost-fight in the North Sea (on 1st inst.) the British torpedo destroyer "Recruit" was torpedoed by a submarine in the neighbourhood of the Galloper Lightship. In the neighbourhood of the North Hinder Lightship, an engagement took place between two German outpost-ships and some armed British trawlers, one of which was destroyed. Our two boats were afterwards sunk by the English superior forces. Most of the crew rescued.

From the submarine war. Our submarines report having sunk some fishing trawlers.

May 4.

In Flanders, our attacks continued from the North and East, Zevenkote, Zonnebeke, Westhoek, the Polygoneveld wood, and Nonne Bosschen captured.

The number of Russians taken prisoners in the pursuit on Mitau is estimated at 4,000.

Renewed Russian attacks at Kalwarja, Augustow, and Jedwabno repulsed, the enemy suffering heavy losses.

The offensive between the wooded Carpathians and the Upper Vistula continues to progress. The number of Russian prisoners taken in West-Galicia is estimated at 30,000.

May 5.

The English are further retreating in the direction of the bridge-head close to the East of Ypres.

Between the Meuse and the Moselle there was greater activity, we made progress in the Bois d'Ailly.

The attack of the allied Austro-Hungarian and German troops North of the wooded Carpathians, pierced through the third fortified line of the Russians, who defeated along the entire front, are beginning to evacuate the threatened positions south-west of Dukla.

The Russian front in the Beskides from Zboro to Sztropko and Lupkow has become untenable. The number of Russian prisoners taken in West-Galicia exceeds 50,000.

From the submarine war. Five more fishing trawlers sunk by our submarines in the North Sea.

In the fighting at the Dardanelles, the enemy situation still unfavourable. Three English steamers sunk by the Turks in the Gulf of Smyrna.

May 6.

Further success reported from Ypres and between the Meuse and the Moselle.

In the Vosges, hostile attacks against our positions North of Steinbrück failed.

In the East, fighting continues in the vicinity of Mitau, Szadow and Rossieny. At Kalwarja, strong Russian forces repeatedly attacked, but were repulsed with heavy losses. In West-Galicia, the rear-guards of the retreating enemy offered a desperate resistance to the allied troops under General Mackensen. At Beskide and on the Lupkow road, the attacks being carried out by the German and Austro-Hungarian armies are progressing favourably. To the right of the Dunajec and the Biala, Russian positions captured. Tarnow has been retaken by the Austrians.

May 7.

Near Ypres, all British attempts to recover Hill 60, south-east of Zillebeke, were frustrated and we gained further ground in the direction of Ypres.

Between the Meuse and the Moselle, we maintained and fortified the captured ground on the Meuse heights and South of the Ailly wood.

In the East, fighting near Szadow and East of Rossieny ended in a decided defeat of the Russians. At the south-eastern theatre of war we advanced and captured large quantities of war booty. On the right bank of the Wisloka, we have advanced in the direction of Pilzno and have crossed the Jasiolka.

From the submarine war. The Cunard-liner "Lusitania" torpedoed off Old Head of Kinsale and sunk.

May 8.

An enemy destroyer sunk by our coast batteries off Zeebrügge on 7th inst.

The usual artillery duels reported from most points in the West. An evening attack carried out by the French at Steinbrück failed.

At the eastern theatre of war, Libau occupied by our troops. 1,600 prisoners, 12 guns, and 4 machine guns taken. Our Baltic forces supported the success by bombarding Libau.

At the south-eastern theatre of war, the pursuit of the retreating enemy is being carried out. The entire number of prisoners there has increased to 70,000, as well as (since 2nd inst.) 38 guns, of which 9 are heavy ones.

The enemy landing force driven back at the Dardanelles near Sedil-Bahr.

Krosno captured.

To the East of Lupkow the Carpathian crest to the North of Telepocz, Zelloe and Nagypólani taken by assault.

Numerous Germans leave Italy.

May 9.

The enemy thrown out of their strong positions between the roads Fortuin-Wieltje and Gheluvelt-Ypres; Frezenberg and Verlorenhoek captured.

Advanced German sections forced to retreat owing to superior Russian forces at Mitau. The line Wilna-Szawle north-east of Kowno destroyed.

Mackensen crosses the Wisloca. The Russians retreat on Mielec and across the Vistula. The line Uzsok Pass-Komancza-Krosno-Debica-Szezucin crossed by the Allied.

The Austrians take the bridge head Zaleszczyki.

The English steamers "Don" and "Touro" and the fishing steamer "St. Louis" sunk by German submarines.

Reports as to the mutual shelling of two English squadrons near Bergen on 7th and 8th April.

Giolitti arrives in Rome.

May 10.

The Kaiser at the south-eastern theatre of war.

Extensive Anglo-French attack south-west of Lille. The enemy penetrated our positions between Carency and Neuville.

The Stobnica-sector, the Brzezanka and the lower Wisloca reached by Mackensen's army, and from the South the line Dvernik-Balligrod-Bukowska.

German naval airships dropped bombs on Southend and West-cliff at the mouth of the Thames.

May 11.

Fighting for the Loretto height, Ablain and Carency.

North-West of Berry-au-Bac in the woods south of La Ville-au-Bois our troops stormed some of the enemy lines.

The Russian lines broken through at many points, especially near Besko and between Brzozow, Lutcza, and Debeca. Desperate attacks by several Russian divisions from Sanok were repulsed and the Russians forced back from the Nida front. After the victory of Balligrod advanced troops crossed the San at Dwernik. The

Russian VIII. Army situated between Lupkow and Uzsok affected by this defeat.

The German Government sent communications to the United States of America and the European Neutral Powers referring to the sinking of the "Lusitania." The "Lusitania" was armed and carried as often before, war material consisting of 5,400 cases of ammunition and other contraband on board.

Anti-German riots broke out in London and Liverpool and later in Capetown and Johannesburg, owing to the sinking of the "Lusitania" (pillaging, destruction, and ill-treatment).

May 12.

An important height captured at Ypres and a French attack on the Hartmannsweilerkopf repulsed.

Fighting at Szawle.

The allied troops crossed the San between Sanok and Dynow and reached farther North the district of Rzeszow and Miliec. Rzeszow, Dynow, Sanok, and Lisko captured by the Allied. The enemy ejected from his position near Turka in the Orawa and Opor valleys.

Russian forces advanced on Horodenka.

The Cunard-line issued a notice stating that the "Mauretania" which was scheduled to sail on 29th May, would not leave. French traffic to America suspended for eight days, beginning on 10th May.

May 13.

The village of Carency and the western part of Ablain evacuated by the Germans. Violent French attacks at Croix-des Carmes repulsed.

In central Galicia, the district of Dubiecko-Kolbuszowa in South-Poland taken by the army von Woyrsch Kielce. Austro-Hungarian and German troops under General von Linsingen captured a height East of the Upper Stry.

In the pursuit, carried out by General von Mackensen, the captured booty is estimated at 143,500 Russians taken prisoners, 100 guns, and 350 machine guns.

The English battle ship "Goliath" destroyed at the Dardanelles and the cruiser "Implacable" damaged.

Windhuk occupied by the British South-African forces under General Botha.

The Italian Ministry Salandra presented its resignation to the King.

May 14.

Further ground won in the direction of Hooge between Menin-Ypres. Enemy attacks to the South-West of Lille at Berry-au-Bac and Bois-le-Prêtre repulsed.

The advanced guards of the army under General von Mackensen are before Przemyśl on the left bank of the lower San. From the district of Dobromil and Stary Sambor, the enemy is retiring in a north-easterly direction before our vanguards. Our troops have reached the heights South-West of Dobromil and Stary Sambor. In South-Poland, the Russians continue to retreat on the line Polaniec-Kielce-Inowłodz direction. In South-Eastern Galicia the Russians penetrated as far as the Upper Tyn North of Sniatyn and Nahala.

War demonstrations and riots in Rome, Milan, and other Italian towns.

The English Government has decided to arrest all nationals of enemy countries between the ages of 17-45.

May 15.

Since 22nd April, 110 officers, 5,450 men (uninjured) and 500 wounded taken prisoners at Ypres.

At the Loretto height most of the enemy attacks repulsed, in one of which the enemy suffered exceptionally heavy losses.

In the fighting near Szawle the advance of strong Russian forces brought to a standstill. Russian reinforcements are being brought up South of the Njemen. The Allied continue to advance on the front from Nowe Miasto on the Pilica as far as South of the Dujestr. Jaroslau, Rudnik, and Lozajec on the San taken by assault. The Hungarian X. Corps before the gates of Przemyśl. Dobromil, Stary Sambor, and Boryslaw taken. Our troops have reached the heights of Dolina.

A Russian attack to the North of Kolomea repulsed. Fighting continues on the Pruth.

All enemy male subjects to be arrested in South Africa.

May 16.

South of Neuve Chapelle, the English made Infantry attacks, but were repulsed. Renewed French attacks on both sides of the ridge of the Loretto hill collapsed under our fire. To the west of the Argonnes, we took possession of a strong French *point d'appui*, extending over a width of 600 metres.

In the eastern theatre of war, a Russian advance was easily repulsed in the region of Shavli on the Dubissa, north-west of Ugiany, a small division of our troops had to retreat before strong

Russian forces losing 2 cannons. Near Augustowo and both sides of the Omulew, strong Russian night attacks failed with heavy losses to the enemy.

At the south-eastern theatre of war between the Pilica and the Upper Vistula, as well as on the front Sambor Stryj Stanislaw, the allied German and Austro-Hungarian armies continue to advance—on the San region from Rudnik to Przemysl, Russian rear-guards were repelled from the western river bank. Our Allies have occupied Sambor.

At the Dardanelles near Ari Burnu, fresh attacks repelled by the Turks.

From the submarine war. German submarines reported in the Mediterranean.

May 17.

At Steenstraate and Het Sas, we evacuated our advanced positions and withdrew from them our weak forces to our main position east of the Yser Canal. North of Arras, near Ablain and Neuville, we repulsed French attacks with very severe losses.

Russian attacks on the Dubissa near Eyragola and Czeikiszki and south of the Njemen near Mariampol and Ludvinow were repulsed.

On the south-eastern theatre of war, our advance is proceeding, as is also fighting for Przemysl.—Our allies have occupied Drohobycz. The number of prisoners and captured war materials continue to increase.

From the air war. Our airships undertook a successful attack on Dover and Calais. British war-ships were sunk in the Dardanelles by mines.

May 18.

Fighting continues on the eastern banks of the Yser Canal to the south-east of Boesinghe.—English night attacks to the south of Neuve Chapelle were repulsed with heavy enemy losses and renewed French attacks on the Loretto height near Ablain, west of Souchez failed.

Renewed violent Russian attacks at the Dubissa in the vicinity of Eyragola repulsed, as well as at Mariampol.

To the North of Przemysl, from the south of Jaroslau, to the entrance of the Wislok river in the San, the German and Austro-Hungarian troops have fought for a passage over the San. The enemy is fleeing farther towards the East and North-east. In the Upper Dniester region, vigorous fighting is proceeding.

The total number of prisoners taken by our Allies in Galicia, is 174,000 men, 128 guns, and 368 machine guns having also been captured.

May 19.

North of Ypres, fighting east of the canal bank took a course favourable for us—South of Neuve Chapelle, the English began new attacks, but were repulsed everywhere.—On the Loretto height, we took some hostile trenches. Strong French attacks against the south part of Neuville and Bois-le-Prêtre collapsed under our fire.

On both sides of the Njemen, fighting continues, as well as between the Pilica and Upper Vistula and south-east of Przemyśl.

A division composed of Hannoverian and Oldenburg troops, has made 7,000 prisoners in the fighting for the crossing of the San. They also took 4 cannons and 28 machine guns.

From the submarine war. The English steamer "Drumcree" sunk.

May 20.

Dull and hazy weather impeded activities in Flanders and the north-west of France.

Between the Meuse and Moselle, artillery combats were especially severe. The French attacked on a wide front near Ailly, but were everywhere repulsed after severe hand to hand fighting.

South of the Njemen advanced Russian forces were completely defeated at Gryszkabuda-Syntowty-Szaki. Our troops, who advanced across the San North of Przemyśl, were again desperately attacked by the Russians, but the enemy was repulsed everywhere with very considerable losses.

In the fighting on the Upper Dniester, we captured a further 5,600 prisoners.

From the submarine war. The Russian ship "Panteleimon" sunk off Midja in the Black Sea with transports.

May 21.

English attacks to the South of Neuve Chapelle and renewed French attacks at Ailly failed:

To the East of Milosajcies the Russians were forced back across the Dubissa.

Since 16th May, the entire number of prisoners has increased by 20,000, so that since 2nd May 194,000 prisoners have been taken altogether, of these 104,000 men, 72 cannons, and 253 machine guns have been captured by the troops commanded by General von Mackensen, and the other German troops fighting in cooperation with the Austro-Hungarian forces.

May 22.

On the western theatre of war near Givenchy hand-to-hand fighting which ended favourably for us. French attacks repulsed

at the Loretto height and on the Béthune-Lens road. Artillery fighting took place between the Meuse and Moselle. An enemy attack at Bois-le-Prêtre repulsed.

In the East near Szawle, the Russian north wing attacked and defeated. 1,600 prisoners, 7 machine guns captured. Nothing of importance has taken place in the south-east.

From the submarine war. The English steamer "Glenholm" torpedoed.

May 23.

Italy declares war on Austria-Hungary. Prince Bülow and the Prussian and Bavarian diplomatic representatives to the Vatican leave Rome.

English attacks between Neuve-Chapelle and Givenchy repulsed, as well as French attacks on the northern slope of the Loretto height.

Nothing of importance reported from the other theatres of war. The allied troops defeated at Sedil-Bahr. 2,000 men of the landing corps killed.

The Emden crew in Constantinople.

May 24.

German airmen dropped bombs on Paris.

In Flanders we approached Hooze after having captured several farms. Renewed enemy attacks between Neuve-Chapelle and Givenchy, as well as to the North of the Loretto height repulsed.

In the East on the Dubissa, strong Russian forces attacked and forced across the river. 2,240 prisoners and 5 machine guns taken. Violent Russian attacks at Eiragola failed. -

In the south-east, the troops commanded by General von Mackensen took up an offensive to the North of Przemysl. Numerous fortified places and the heights to the north-east of Bobrowka stormed. 153 officers, 21,000 men, 39 guns, including 9 heavy ones, and 40 machine guns captured.

The Austro-Hungarian fleet carried out a successful night attack against the Italian East-coast between Venice and Barletta.

May 25.

The English penetrated to some of our foremost trenches at Givenchy. French attacks between Lievin and the Loretto height. Souchez-Béthune and south of Souchez repulsed, the enemy suffering heavy losses.

In the East, weak enemy night attacks easily repulsed.

In the south-east the attack is progressing favourably, the allied troops having forced a passage across the San.

In the Tirol, frontier skirmishes between Austrians and Italians.

From the Dardanelles. The English battleship "Triumph" torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine in the Gulf of Saros.

The Chino-Japanese agreement signed. The United States Government sent Notes to Japan and China, referring to the Chino-Japanese agreement.

May 26.

Renewed strong French attacks between Vermelles and the Loretto hill failed.

Conditions in the East remain unchanged.

To the north-east of Przemyśl and in the neighbourhood of Stryj, progressive attacks being made.

From the air war. A successful raid carried out on the fortifications of Southend at the mouth of the Thames.

Coalition Cabinet formed in England.

The English have taken up railway traffic in Karibib and Windhuk again.

May 27.

Nothing of importance to be reported from the West.

French evening and night attacks to the south-east of the Loretto ridge and Bois-le-Prêtre repulsed.

In the East on the Dubissa our troops made a successful attack, making more than 3,000 prisoners. In the south-east, Russian attacks to the right of the San failed, our troops capturing large numbers of prisoners, guns, and machine guns.

Przemyśl shelled by the allied troops' heavy guns.

The King of Italy departs for General Headquarters in supreme command.

In Tirol, small Italian detachments have crossed the frontier at various points.

From the air war. An aerial raid carried out by 18 French airmen on the open town of Ludwigshafen. The leading machine forced to land to the East of Neustadt.

From the Dardanelles. The English battleship "Majestic" torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine at Sedil-Bahr and a second English battleship of the Agamemnon class, severely damaged by a torpedo launched by a German submarine. The English fleet at the Dardanelles forced to withdraw.

May 28.

The Imperial Chancellor in a speech at the Reichstag denounced Italy's participation in the war as a breach of faith.

Repeated strong French counter-attacks on the Béthune-Souchez road were repulsed at all points, the enemy suffering heavy losses.

On the Upper Dubissa, south-east of Kurtowiany and Kielmy, Russian attacks failed.

North-east of Przemysl, our troops are advancing against the north front. Between the Wisznia and Lubaczowka sector, repeated Russian attacks repulsed with very heavy losses for the enemy.

The English auxiliary cruiser "Princess Irene" blown up at Sheerness.

From the submarine war. The English steamer "Cadeby" sunk. The Portuguese President D'Arriaga retires.

May 29.

Several French attacks repulsed. Our weak troops evacuated the eastern part of Ablain.

The situation unchanged in the East.

Further progress reported from the South-east before Przemysl.

Frontier fighting in Tirol. Enemy attacks North of Görz repulsed.

From the air war. German airmen dropped bombs on Gravelines, Dunkirk, Saint Omer and the aerodrome at Fismes. Austrian airmen above Venice.

From the submarine war. The English steamers "Spennymoore" and "Morvena" torpedoed.

Mob riots in Milan.

Arrangements concluded between Argentine, Brasil and Chile. Theophile Braga elected President of Portugal.

May 30.

Strong French attacks repulsed at the Yser Canal. The Russians defeated at Illkoy. The village of Sawdyniki lost and recaptured.

From the south-eastern theatre of war. Further success reported from Przemysl, eight guns captured.

Cortina in the Tirol occupied by the Italians. Italian attempts to cross the Isonzo thwarted.

From the submarine war. The steamer "Ethiope" torpedoed

May 31.

French attacks to break through our line at Arras and Boisle-Prêtre defeated, the enemy suffering enormous losses. The railway bridge at Dammerkirch destroyed by our artillery.

No important events reported from the East. Several places taken by storm in the south-east near Stryj.

Italian attacks repulsed. Artillery fighting on the Isonzo.

A French torpedo boat wrecked off Smyrna.

From the submarine war. The English steamers "Tulluchmoor" and "Glenlee" and the Russian sailing vessel "Mars" torpedoed.

German Soldiers' Letters

published in the press by the Soldiers' parents and relations.

1. From the Western Theatre of War.

English Methods of Warfare.

Episode from the fighting near Ancien Moulin (La Bassée):

The assaults which the . . . infantry brigade carried out on the enemy positions south of the La Bassée Canal, were of importance owing to the fact that the French and English line of demarcation was situated there. It can even be said that one German infantry regiment was successful in bringing pressure to bear on the mighty French battle line, reaching as far as Belfort, while the other regiment attacked the English right wing. The road from La Bassée to Béthune was where the French and English were divided. The English had thrown up excellently flanked entrenchments here along the road, which was protected by the French firing line in the direction of Béthune. When on the morning of 29th January our troops began to attack the Béthune road, the English firing line opened a violent fire on the German assailants. The French fled from their trenches, fearing the German bayonets and about 25 men tried to escape on the road leading to Ancien Moulin. These fleeing French proved to be a hindrance to the English fire directed against the Germans. But instead of the English ceasing fire for a short time to the advantage of their retreating Allies, they kept it up incessantly wounding the entire band of French. The corpses lay on the edge of the road in confusion, a monument of English brutality. None of our shells had been directed thither; all these French were killed by the English.

In the course of the same attack, a German soldier, who had arrived at the high-road, was hit by an English bullet. He collapsed, but tried to rise and reach his comrades. That was fatal for him, for no sooner had the English noticed something moving on the road than they made a target of the man. Two, three shells burst in the road and at last one finished off the injured man. On the evening of the battle I stood in the entrenchments and in the moonshine could clearly see the stretched out corpse of the German hero lying alone on the lonely road. England's brutality had changed the misery of a wounded German into the sublimity of death for his country.

(Frankfurter Zeitung, April 18. 1915.)

The German Victory at Ypres.

The long expected and eagerly longed for day has at last arrived—at last our heart's desire has been granted. We have crossed the Yser Canal and taken up positions on the opposite bank at a sufficient distance from the water way, which in the course of the past few months has often well-nigh brought us to despair. The monotonous view of the Canal has at last disappeared and we are thankful at no longer hearing the gurgling of the yellow brown waves, which even with a moderate wind so often honoured us with a visit in the trenches, drenching us to the skin! How often did we pray for this, when on cold winter or stormy early spring nights we kept watch in the trenches, shivering with cold and our teeth shattering. And now it is really a fact, we have got across, have fairly dry ground under our feet, and the principal—have given the Allies a sound and thorough thrashing.

It all happened so suddenly that it seems almost incomprehensible now, although for days before we could all see that something was in preparation. Conjectures and assumptions were exchanged, watchwords flew hither and thither, still nobody believed in the seriousness of the situation. Already for days past, we could hear incessant cannonading to our right, which was so violent that we supposed an extensive battle was in progress. In our section perfect calm prevailed, only the pioneers were more active than usual. Pontons were brought up, beams and planks piled up in our vicinity, while the pioneer officers passed by with mysterious glances. What was going on? But we soon learned what was in the wind, and I must say the news was received with such enthusiasm that it made us forget all the dreadfulness in store. Preparations were eagerly inaugurated for the great venture, and all of us could scarcely await the hour, which was to bring us victory or death.

This time, our artillery worked wonders, the whole enemy position had the appearance of a large Lake of fire. Incessantly our shells burst in and above the English trenches, working havoc and destruction. I cannot actually remember how long this bombardment lasted, whether long or short. None of us in the front trenches looked at our watches, our eyes were riveted on the gruesome, but magnificent spectacle before us. We suffered from the biting smoke which came over to our position in dense clouds and caused a choking sensation in our throats, so that we were hardly able to stand it, although we got but a fraction of what was sent to the enemy trenches. And yet no one left his place. We all stood and stared. When suddenly, as if at a given signal, our guns ceased fire and an almost solemn stillness reigned, many a one felt his head which was throbbing as a result of the fearful din, looked at his comrade and silently pointed over beyond, where the thick columns of smoke still darkened the sky. Was it a dream, or was it reality? . . .

But when the command came to advance, this entire depression disappeared. The company climbed up as one man from the trenches, their rifles firm in their hands, storming forwards, until—dashed—the Canal! We had quite forgotten it and could not get across. Still, wonders never cease. A regular bridge had been laid. Dozens of boats were standing ready, and in the water hundreds of swimmers could be seen who with a rifle in one hand swam across with the other. Our pioneers are splendid fellows—above all praise. Under cover of the artillery fire, they had brought up all their material without us having noticed anything, and now all we had to do was to march over or to enter one of the boats without fearing even getting our feet wet, if we did not prefer to swim across for a change.

In a few minutes we had all reached the opposite bank—and it did not take us long to lie flat and open fire. The English were not taken by surprise and those who had not been injured by the artillery fire, shot like mad. Mines, hand-grenades, and bombs flew hither and thither. We jumped up and were soon in the enemy entrenchments, where frightful hand to hand fighting ensued. Fresh supports were continually sent to us across the canal and in this way we continued to press forward, proceeding across the first, second and third lines of entrenchments. Now we have come to the main position! Hurrah, there are even guns! Who would have thought that we were to capture guns to-day! For we took them, nine in number, quite new English guns! We had not paid any attention to the machine guns and mine throwers in the first captured trenches—we had to press forward and had no time to bother about such trifles. The principal thing was that they were captured, by whom, did not matter in the least. But these guns—that was another thing—they were ours by right—and our slightly wounded, who kept guard, took good care that we got our rights. We had expected much greater resistance from the enemy and saw to our joy that we had suffered comparatively slight losses. Our artillery had done its work too well, the French and English had been well tamed down.

The sights in the captured positions were dreadful. Our heavy shells had made enormous tunnels in the ground, destroying the dug-outs and cover, and all around the slashed bodies and limbs of the English and French were to be seen. But it was not only Europeans that lay there stiff and dead—black, brown, yellow, red, a whole conglomeration of nations, where Death had reaped its reward. They all lay there dumb and stiff, most of them cruelly mutilated—proofs of England's brutal sentiments, that had sent them to certain death. Among the prisoners we made (which was quite a large number), were also many coloured, especially Canadians, who were apparently happy to have got off with their lives and be taken prisoners by the Germans. We were surprised, as we had thought that we only had English opposite us, and now we

saw to our astonishment that we had been fighting against so many various races.

We had been victorious and the much longed for enemy positions were in our hands. Let them come and repeat our attack, we shall be ready for them.

(*Kölnische Volkszeitung.*)

2. From the Eastern Theatre of War.

An Episode of the Fighting in the Carpathians.

The "Süddeutsche Zeitung" publishes the following thrilling description, which is taken from a field letter, written by a Swabian artillery officer:

We had not been more than three days in the Carpathians, when we achieved a great success with our battery. When we had been unloaded, we proceeded at quick march up one of the mountainous valleys, and at 5 kilometres behind the front, we were to go in billets for one day, I having to arrange the billets for the whole detachment. Suddenly we were alarmed and got orders to assist in the attack, and bring our guns up a very steep mountain. We yoked four guns, each drawn by 10 horses and started up the valley. On the way we met an Austrian General who informed us that it was quite impossible to think of proceeding, as the road was under the enemy fire and as steep as a gable roof. But in spite of that, after five very fatiguing hours' marching, we arrived at the top of the peak, from where we had a magnificent view of the surrounding snow clad hills. The Russians had taken up their positions on an opposite slope at about 3 kilometres distance from us and this hill had such a commanding position and was so consolidated that it could be looked upon almost as impregnable. This enemy height extended for about three kilometres and against this, our infantry proceeded to attack separated as they were, but by a few intervening valleys (the height is a very important strategical point, piercing the Russian front which was forced to retreat 6 kilometres). But they were kept under a frightful fire so that the Brigade could not proceed. Now we began our work with our four guns, I was stationed at the left one. Wherever a Russian was seen, the entrenchments were enfiladed, and each of the guns could be worked independently—it was splendid. My gun fired off almost 300 rounds that day, so that it was glowing with heat.

Ten staffs watched our fire as well as several Austrians. The infantry soon ceased to attack and waited to see what turn events would take. Two field howitzers and two of the heaviest calibre guns assisted us. At midday, we increased our exact range. Shell after shell burst just above the enemy entrenchments, so that the

Russians were put to flight on the right and left and did not know where to seek cover; we could see their fur caps distinctly. I had taken a little birch wood under fire, when I discovered two Russian officers at an observation post behind a tree about 2 kilometres to the left. A jerk—the gun has been turned and at the same moment a projectile is on its way to them. One of them is hurled about 6 metres high in the air, another blown to atoms, and the rest are all stretched dead. Towards evening, we got orders for quick fire and the entrenchments were subjected to a shower of explosives, so that it must have been like hell. There! what was that? To the extreme left, white cloths and breeches were being frantically waved and at the same time numerous enemies emerged from the hill. The quiet slope suddenly took on the aspect of an ant-heap. We could see distinctly, how they approached in line and were brought off towards the left by our triumphant infantry-men. In the centre of the hill, the Russians had not quite decided as to what they would do, so we had to give them some assistance: after receiving 30–40 high-explosives from us, they came in hundreds—in thousands. We had not dreamed that the enemy entrenchments had been so well-manned. When twilight began to fall, they even approached from the extreme right—a strongly fortified hill had been captured by us on a front of $3\frac{1}{2}$ kilometres in one day. The commander of the division gave three cheers for our regiment, the colonel got the Iron Cross first class and the captain thanked us with touching words. If our infantry had assaulted this hill, it would have cost thousands of lives, and as it was—we had not one killed. 6,000 Russians had surrendered to us.

For 25 minutes, they kept marching past us, but I grew bored, as there was no sign of an end and went away. Can you imagine it, 6,000? I examined the hill later on and it was a gruesome sight. The explosives had worked fearful disaster among the compact human masses. A birch wood adjoining one of the entrenchments was slashed to pieces; hundreds of explosives in every tree, hell must have been an agreeable place as compared with the Russians' position, as we fired off 1,100 rounds on the one day.

(Braunschweiger Landeszeitung, April 20, 1915.)

The Undaunted Ensign.

On the Allee South-East of the railway station of Klenak the third battery of the X. Fieldgun Regiment is engaged in a bitter fight with Servian artillery. Suddenly a fearful detonation is heard in the direction of the station, which is so violent, that it rises above the roar of the cannons, while enormous flames shoot upwards like ghastly fire-works. What can have happened? A train, fully laden with ammunition, which had been in the station, has been hit by one of the enemy's shells.

The damaged waggon is enveloped in bright flames, as the fire spreads rapidly, and with an infernal din, the second waggon is blown up. The whole train, which is fully packed with rifles and ammunition, looks as if it were doomed to destruction.

At this moment, the ensign in the reserve, Dr. Eduard von Abrudbanyay, requests his captain to allow him to make an attempt to rescue the train. The captain, who has to remain at his post, leading his battery, and who cannot absent himself complies with this request, but half-heartedly, but there is no time for consideration. Herr von Abrudbanyay dashes at once to the station, which is enveloped in dense smoke, followed by two of his artillery men and a corporal from a neighbouring battery.

The crashing, murderous, smoking train has banished all humanity from its vicinity, none of the station attendants are to be seen, the engine driver is lying dead on the rails and the stoker has driven out of the station on his engine. Fortunately he has not gone far, the engine is brought back, the ensign quickly boards it and gives the command to drive into the burning station. The stoker can do nothing else but obey. . . . In the meantime six waggons have caught fire, the glowing gun parts flying through the air like a rain of fire urged on by a violent wind, the effects of which are so vehement that they are disagreeably noticeable at a distance of 1500 yards. And now the flames are approaching the waggons containing the ammunition for the heavy field howitzers, in fact the entire station is but a glowing crater full of smoke and flames, din and danger. Ensign von Abrudbanyay however takes his heart in an iron hand, there can be no retreat now, they have risked their lives and must win the game. And wonderful as it seems, the courageous young man was successful in uncoupling not less than 14 of the ammunition waggons and bringing them into safety. It is unnecessary to describe what an enormous and precious amount of ammunition these 14 waggons contained. But the courageous ensign thinks he has not yet done sufficient, no sooner had he brought the waggons into safety than he returned to the burning station, with the intention of saving the ammunition cases that were piled up in the magazines. But here even his courage and heroism was in vain, an impenetrable wall of flame prevented all approach to the magazines.

He received the silver medal for bravery first class, and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant.

(Allgemeine Zeitung Chemnitz, April 21, 1915.)

On the Banks of the Vistula.

When twilight fell, we went into position, our two heavy howitzer-batteries in the rear excellently concealed in a cavity, and the observation posts in front on the high river bank. The dug-outs

were thrown up beside a large hay-rick and then covered with beams, clay and straw. We wondered whether the Russians would set the rick on fire the following day, as they generally did in East Prussia. Daylight came on. To the right and left of us shrapnel was bursting, but the Russians seemed to consider our hay-rick harmless. Besides there were eight others in the vicinity, and we had a splendid view. Down below, the broad river flowed, the banks on the opposite side were high, just like at Hohenwarthe on the Elbe. A town almost entirely destroyed by shells, in front of which the meadows spread out intersected by the river. Beyond, to the right of the town, a valley with villages, and behind it a large free decline lined on both sides with woods. We made careful observations, in the course of which we discovered that earth had been thrown up in some places and dark zic-zac lines. They were so numerous that it was impossible to distinguish whether they were real or apparent entrenchments. It is true, now and then we could distinguish something brown moving about, but were we to use our heavy shells for that?

The day passed quietly and the sun set so peacefully, dyeing the opposite river banks in deep purple and red. During the night the rattle of the enemy musketry could be heard sometimes loud, then dying away, and again increasing. The next morning we had a dense fog, but towards midday the weather cleared up. We suddenly then saw the Russians busily engaged working at their entrenchments, far beyond on the hill. In a few minutes the distances were measured and gauged and the first shot went off at long range. Unfortunately the range was not quite sufficient. But what was that? There where it burst, hundreds of brown figures jumped out of the zic-zac lines. Another shell was at once sent thither. It was shorter, but also caused activity where it fell. Now different ranges—and side fire—accompanied by quick fire. Our dreadful shells burst with a loud detonation at all points of the far plain, sending forth smoke and iron and everywhere where they fell, the Russians came rushing from their trenches, dashing about in wild despair, sometimes in batches and sometimes singly like hunted rabbits. It must have been like hell over there, but now they have reached the cover of the wood. Soon it began to rattle there too, a horse which has been frightened and broken loose, rushes across the field. Ha-ha—columns and guns are in the wood. Two of our guns take the wood under fire, while the others finish off the entrenchments. At last only three or four men can be seen rushing about, we can afford to spare them and in a short time there is quiet on both sides.

Twilight comes on, when a rattling is heard and down below on our bank, shells burst over the heads of our pioneers. The rattling increases. What can it be and where can it come from? An infantry officer comes up to us, he has seen it. Above the town, under no cover up on the hill, we see a flame. Now we

have it. What we had considered a decoy, was a real battery. In a short time we have got the direction, with splendid regularity the shelling is begun, and the projectiles fall with incredible accuracy, sometimes behind, and sometimes right in the midst of the battery. There is no escape for those on the other side, gun after gun is destroyed. The others fire all the wilder, and when one battery has been silenced, another begins its work. which up to then had been quite quiet. Our respects to the cannoneers over there, who have betrayed their position and are destined to certain death. Shell for shell finds its mark, one hits the ammunition next the guns. An enormous column of flame rises and a powerful explosion is heard. It grows still on the hill and night falls covering this work of destruction. We too are all silent, nobody says anything, but the same thought possesses us all: Russia can be proud of those artillery-men who have fallen by the side of their guns!

(Magdeburgische Zeitung, April 21, 1915.)

3. From the Turkish Theatre of War.

Fighting at the Dardanelles.

..... I am sorry to have left you without news for so long, but you will understand that we were kept pretty busy for some time past. First of all, we had to arrange our present observation post which is situated on the top of a hill, then I worked with four Turkish soldiers preparing a dug-out, which was not easy labour owing to the chalky condition of the soil, and this had then to be made as habitable as possible for four men. Our living room, which we have hewn out of the barren rocks, is about 6 ft. in length and high enough to allow of three beds, placed one over another. Every beam, board, etc. had to be carried up to the crest on our shoulders. On the 17th, we moved up here from our little hut, which was at the foot of the Dardanos batteries, and by sunset, all our belongings had been brought up. To-day, the comrades are building the kitchen, which consists of a hole in the ground, in which a stove is being arranged, as well as some provision boxes. It was lucky for us that we were so advanced, as the great battle took place on 18th March.

The enemies approached with 16 war ships (ships of the line and dreadnoughts). In the first row, 6 French and 4 English, and in the second 6 more English. All the ships in the first row opened a fierce fire on all the forts. They must have fired off between 3,500—4,000 rounds, Kilid Bahr at times being subjected to showers of shells. After about two hours, Kilid Bahr and Hamidieh began to reply. Owing to the side view, which one of our posts afforded up here, Hamidieh was successful in damaging a French ship to

such an extent that it sank within four minutes. Hamidieli then directed his attention to one of the English ships, which after half an hour was seen to list heavily as the machinery was damaged. The wind drove her quite near Fort Dardanos where she sank at about 800 m. from the shore. A third battle-ship was sunk owing to the specially good aim of the howitzer battery. A torpedo destroyer, which had hastened to help the latter's crew, was also hit and sunk immediately, while the remaining ships were more or less severely damaged. The large dreadnought "Queen Elisabeth" was hit in several places, one shell penetrating the funnel as far as the machine room, where it caused considerable damage. None of the ships escaped receiving severe injuries and having to report at least several hundred killed on board.

Towards 8 o'clock in the evening they withdrew.

About 12:30 a. m. my mate K. . . shouted to me: "The connection is cut!" Now my turn came. Clutching my portable telephone and reserve wires, I dashed down the steep hill and along the road towards Hamidieli. My God, what a sight that was! To the right and left of the road shells were bursting, causing enormous craters. Especially when I approached the Dardanos range, the shells came whizzing one after another, tearing up trees and telephone posts. Our wire had only been damaged at one point and it did not take me long to repair it, but I ran along the road for about three kilometres in the direction of Hamidieli, so as to be sure that it was not damaged at any other point. Then I shut up my box and had the satisfaction of talking over the wire to K. . and with the telephone post at Hamidieli.

It was 3 o'clock, when I returned tired and hungry, and enjoyed four raw eggs and then lay down and fell asleep at once.

For the last two days, the ships left us at peace, which was a good thing for us. All the guns had to be cleaned, damaged walls rebuilt, the wounded bandaged and the dead buried. None of the guns at Dardanos have been damaged, nor at Kilid Bahr, but one at Hamidieli was silenced

(Frankfurter Zeitung, April 18, 1915.)

4. From the Air Fleet.

A Reconnoissance Flight.

I have done more than 4,000 "flying kilometres" since the war began as observer or pilot, above the enemy. More than a dozen times I have escaped death, but by a hair's breadth, but never neither in the East or West have I been in such varying danger as on 18th March, when on a reconnoissance flight over Warsaw.

The aerodrome of our half air-squadron was situated at K..., about 6 kilometres behind our front. On the evening of 17th March, we got orders to make observations of the enemy movements in the section between N... and N... We arranged to start the next morning. Lance-corporal S... was pilot and I the observer. The L. V. G. machine is before its tent at 9 a. m., the mechanics giving her the last touch, supplies for 5 hours must be poured into the tanks, here and there a wire must be tightened, a screw oiled. While corporal S... and I take one more look at the map, so as to be perfectly sure of our direction, bombs are hung on to the body of the machine. We are prepared that it will be unusually cold, the thermometer points to—12 degrees—so that the cooling water is poured in almost at boiling point. Besides this, a little glycerine and some carbonate of soda is added (latter so as to prevent acids). We protect ourselves from the cutting eastern cold with our big sheep skins and thick felt boots.

It is 9.15 a.m., the by-plane is rolled on to the starting rail, one of the mechanics turns the propeller, all is ready. Rrrr.... whizzes the starter, the Mercedes hisses and springs round, while the glistening screw sends the snow in the clouds flying back. Sturdy soldiers hands are still holding the machine by its body and tail until the propeller has reached the highest number of revolutions. The machine rises, lurches, rears, jerking and groaning. A sign! The mechanics let go and the by-plane dashes like a dart across the snow field. In a moment it suddenly jumps into its element.

The weather was very squally, the wind coming from N.E. and continually throwing the machine on its side, so that S... was kept busy trying to fight the elements. After about 5 minutes, we reached an altitude of 700 m. and I gave directions as to our course. The vast snowy plain lies beneath, blending our eyes in spite of our yellow glasses. All points from which we could take our bearings, are snowed up, the only thing that we can see distinctly, is the railway line to Warsaw, and long extensive trenches which intersect the country like furrows, one parallel with the other, and then again some in zic-zac. Now and then decoy positions and advanced outposts, both of which are only recognizable with the assistance with the sharpest field glasses. Then the intervening space between both armies. The L. V. G. continues to ascend, but the motor seems to have difficulty in doing its work. Now we pierce the clouds and are enveloped in dark fog. We can hardly recognize the ends of the planes, so dark has it become, and we must depend altogether on our compass for direction. After about 10 minutes, the pilot tugs at the horizontal rudder and with choked-off motor we come out of the clouds, having flown over the enemy lines under cover of the fog and now find ourselves behind the Russian front. Processions of carriages and carts on all streets! A field ambulance, flying the Geneva Cross is near the railway line, which we follow in the direction of Warsaw. The Vistula looks like a black

ribbon on a white ground and has strong fortifications on its right bank. One single shot was fired at us, but the shell exploded at a long distance from the machine.

Forwards towards South-East! We can see the outlines of towers in the foggy distance, they increase from minute to minute—Warsaw! We proceed in this direction at a rate of 120 kilometres an hour, and have arrived at our destination. Corporal S. . . makes powerful curves and I have been sketching for the past ten minutes and now proceed to take the necessary photographs. Suddenly—the first cracker. The apparently harmless cloud of smoke just before us shows that the forts have opened fire. Now again a shrapnel—yet another—and finally lively reports from all the works. One shell bursts disagreeably near and the air pressure dashes the entire machine to the left and not a little over the left plane, however after a critical moment it rights itself again, thanks to the pilot's presence of mind and the gallant Mercedes. We are at a height of 500 metres when we begin our work. The first bomb is dropped, the black white and red ribbon spreads and facilitates observation. The first bomb has hit a barracks. It must have exploded, as thick black clouds of smoke ascend, but the second appears to have been blind, at least I cannot observe any effect. The third bomb however sets fire to a large petroleum tank on the banks of the Vistula from which powerful flames are emitted and greasy black smoke ascends. We have every reason to be pleased with our success.

But now we must make for home, as things begin to be rather uncomfortable for us. S. . . again clutches the horizontal rudder and the faithful machine begins to climb. We have reached the cloud frontier, our Barograph pointing to 700 m when suddenly we feel a strong thud and through the noise of the motor distinguish that of breaking wood. Horrified, we turn to look at the planes, they are undamaged with the exception of some bullet holes, but the machine begins to sink, the shell has damaged the horizontal rudder. The vertical rudder seems to be still in order, S. . . turns the gas on full and keeps working with the twisted wings. We try to get out of the Russian gun range, the seconds seem like eternity—but at last we have succeeded . . . if the motor can only hold out . . . our eyes are riveted on the valves. The Russian positions appear before us again, this is our last chance. We must get across the enemy positions hardly more than 600 m. high. They must have recognized us, as a machine gun fire such as I have never experienced is brought to bear on us. This must be the end. Some of the bullets hit the body, if the motor is hit, we must drop like a stone to the ground. I feel a sharp knock on my breast. Now all is over. My whole life rushes past. My childhood—my mother! This unconsciousness lasts but a moment. The enemy fire grows less, we are over our own lines. S. . . chokes off the motor, the machine darts forward, he arranges the rolls and twisted wings and turns on full gas again, so as to prevent the by-plane capsizing—

which manœuvre he repeats in an admirable way until we are almost on the ground. We both creep into the body and I clutch my camera. A powerful crash, metal and wooden splinters flying about. We turn several somersaults and are finally wedged in under a heap of ruins on the ground.

After a short time assistance came up, I had broken a rib and S... both his legs from our fall. But the sketches and photos were safe and have done good service, so that our flight was really rewarded with success, while both of us were decorated with the Iron Cross first class.

(Frankfurter Zeitung, April 18, 1915.)

An Airman's Death.

The *Kriegszeitung* of the IV. Army publishes a touching description of the death of a German airman, which has been sent by the Naval Aviation Department and is as follows:—

... But a few minutes ago, he stood laughing and joking with us on the aerodrome, the little volunteer aviator Reuber, lighthearted and joyful as suitable to the magnificent spring morning, as he took his place in his machine, when his observer arrived, the naval ensign Crüger bent under the weight of his large photographic apparatus, his thick muffler wound about his neck and all ready to start. The pair was well-suited to one another. Both of them small, light, with clear eyes and recklessly careless, they took it all as a matter of course. It was really a pleasure to see with what ease they started and mounted until the clouds hid them from our view. They wanted to get some important information as to the enemy positions by means of photographs. Often when they returned from similar trips, they were in a sad plight, as the enemy had left nothing undone to try and bring them down by means of shrapnel, but they had never let anything disturb them in the pursuance of their duty. We did not dream, but that they should both return to-day crowned with success, as the bright spring morning was particularly favourable. While in the midst of their work, they suddenly saw themselves attacked by a large enemy air machine, equipped with machine guns, which appeared from behind the clouds and covered them with fire at a range of about 100 m. Reuber was badly hit and the machine damaged so that it was forced to descend.

All this had taken place in a couple of seconds. Mortally wounded, and with the knowledge that all was over for him, his only thought was of saving his comrade and the machine with the precious contents of valuable photographs. He glided down at a sharp angle, which increased in speed and steepness. At the end, the machine was almost perpendicular as he felt his strength leaving him and was anxious to bring it safely to the ground. We were all astonished at the energy and heroism displayed by little Reuber

in his death struggle on the way back to earth. With complete calm, although riddled with shot, he had turned off the gas and benzin tank, so as to prevent the machine taking fire, and placed it as if on an aerodrome. His sense of duty was so strong that he did not fear death. When he arrived at the involuntary landing place, we found the machine undamaged, except for what the bullets had caused. The observer's behaviour too, was beyond all praise, as he did not lose his presence of mind for an instant. Although severely wounded, he packed up his photographic appliances and took care that the pictures of the enemy positions were brought to his section. Neither of them considered their behaviour very heroic, on the contrary, they took it all as a matter of course. I am sorry to say that after a short time, little Reuber's coffin was covered with the war flag and that now, although some time has passed, and we have other impressions, whenever we stand at our dear comrade's grave, it is always with respect and emotion.

